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Japan

Fujii Talks With U.S. Treasury Secretary

OW2404153694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1526 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Washington, April 24 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii tried again Sunday to convince his U.S. counterpart about Japan's measures to lift the economy.

Fujii said he told U.S. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen that the record 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package adopted in February is proceeding "steadily" and "the economy is gradually showing brightness." He was speaking to reporters after emerging from a 30-minute talk with Bentsen at the Treasury Department ahead of a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations in the afternoon.

Fujii said he also explained that a policy accord newly reached by the coalition parties endorsed the direction for "comprehensive" tax reform to be decided in June and enacted by the end of the year.

He did not say whether he told Bentsen about the scale and other details in continuing the 5.47 trillion yen cut in income and residential taxes included in the February package for only fiscal 1994 that started April 1.

Bentsen was unavailable for comment on the talks. But he previously said the single-year tax plan is not enough for Japan to boost domestic demand and reduce trade surplus, and has called on Japan to take further fiscal measures.

Fujii said he heard no particular requests from Bentsen on the matter during the talks.

While citing improvements in the economy, Fujii said he also told Bentsen that Japanese economy is "not as weak as" the projections released last week by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF said in its twice-yearly world economic outlook that Japan's economic growth in terms of real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected at 0.7 percent in 1994.

The Japanese Government is projecting a 2.4 percent growth for fiscal 1994.

Fujii declined to comment on currency exchange rates, saying the two financial leaders agreed not to make any public comment. When pressed later by reporters whether exchange rates were raised at the meeting, a Japanese official said only Fujii made an overall presentation of the Japanese economy "from various points."

Japanese officials briefing reporters said Fujii spent most of the 30-minute session with Bentsen trying to explain the current condition of the Japanese economy.

They said Fujii assured Bentsen that the new cabinet to be formed under Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata will continue to keep policy unchanged toward deregulating the Japanese economy and carrying out economic reform.

Regarding the stalled trade talks with the United States, Japanese officials said Fujii emphasized the importance of Japan-U.S. relations in suggesting Japan's desire to resume the so-called "framework" talks as soon as possible.

Fujii also explained that Japan's trade surplus has started to decline, noting the Japanese current account surplus shrank in yen terms last year, the officials said.

Japanese officials said Fujii also pledged Japan's cooperation with the U.S. in extending aid to Russia.

Says No 'Strong' U.S. Requests

OW2404225094 Tokyo KYODO in English 2222 GMT 24 Apr 94

[By Kohei Murayama]

[Text] Washington, April 24 KYODO—U.S. Secretary Lloyd Bentsen urged Japan to do more to stimulate domestic demand in a meeting with Japanese Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii on Sunday, a senior U.S. official said. The U.S. treasury official said Bentsen "urged Japan to do more to stimulate domestic demand and to bring down the (trade) surplus" during talks with Fujii.

Fujii, however, emerged from the meeting saying the U.S. had not made any particularly strong requests.

The 30-minute talks were held at the Treasury Department ahead of a meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations in the afternoon.

Bentsen "also emphasized the importance of steps by Japan to open up its financial services and insurance markets to foreign competition," the official said, suggesting an unchanged U.S. stance to await further Japanese moves to restart the stalled "framework" trade talks.

The treasury official termed that talks "useful" for reviewing bilateral developments prior to the G-7 gathering.

Both sides declined to reveal what Bentsen and Fujii discussed about exchange rates.

Fujii said he told Bentsen that the record 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package adopted by the Japanese Government in February is proceeding "steadily" and "the economy is gradually showing brightness" and is not as weak as the recent projections by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF predicted in its twice-yearly world economic outlook that Japan's economic growth in terms of real gross domestic product (GDP) would be 0.7 percent in 1994. The Japanese Government is projecting a 2.4 percent growth for fiscal 1994.

Japanese officials briefing reporters said Fujii spent most of the 30-minute session with Bentsen trying to explain the current state of the Japanese economy.

They said Fujii assured Bentsen that the new cabinet to be formed when Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata is elected premier will continue the policy of deregulating the Japanese economy and carrying out economic reform.

The Japanese finance minister said he also explained that a policy accord newly reached Friday by the coalition parties endorsed the direction for "comprehensive" tax reform to be decided in June and enacted by the end of the year.

Regarding the framework trade talks with the United States, Japanese officials said Fujii emphasized the importance of Japan- U.S. relations and Japan's desire to resume the talks as soon as possible.

Fujii also explained that Japan's trade surplus has started to decline, noting the Japanese current account surplus shrank in yen terms last year, the officials said.

Rountable Discussion Views New Cabinet Tasks

OW2404141894 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Roundtable discussion with Tsutomu Hata, foreign minister and deputy prime minister, and commentator Naoki Tanaka, both in NHK's Tokyo studio, and Akira Yamagishi, chairman of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), and Osamu Uno, chairman of the Kansai Economic Federation, via relay from Osaka; from the "Sunday Discussion" program moderated by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto—live]

[Excerpts] [Yamamoto] Good morning.

[Hata] Good morning.

[Yamamoto] I understand, Mr. Hata, you have long said that you had no intention of becoming a politician. However, Mr. Hata, you are now going to become the chief executive running the state administration. How do you feel at the moment?

[Hata] Well, in my career as a politician, I have always tried to challenge my own destiny. In greeting the new situation, I once again keenly feel that heavy responsibilities will rest on my shoulders. Frankly speaking, this is how I feel now. [passage omitted on discussion of various issues such as early enactment of budget bill, dual power structure, tax reform, and Hata's relationship with Ichiro Ozawa]

[Yamamoto] As foreign minister, Mr. Hata, you have been directly engaged in dealing with Japan-U.S. relations. You must have a better understanding of the points at issue than anyone else. Do you have any plans to make new proposals for taking concrete measures to reduce the trade surplus or deal with other issues?

[Hata] First, it has just been mentioned that Japan-U.S. relations are deadlocked at this moment. I discussed this issue with Mr. Gore, and also with U.S. Trade Representative Kantor in Marrakech recently. We have agreed that each of our two countries has now come to realize wherein lie the points at issue and major differences in our awareness, and at the same time we have come to understand well what each other has to say.

However, as has been pointed out just now, it will take some time to arrive at a conclusion because these issues involve individual sectors. In this sense, frankly speaking I felt that they are concerned with macroeconomic issues, too. Therefore, as has just been pointed out, there exist such problems as what measures should be taken to expand domestic demands and to promote imports. However, I feel we should not believe that measures for expanding domestic demands or promoting imports should be taken merely for the purpose of reducing the trade surplus. On the contrary, if we tackle these issues from the viewpoint that these measures will also contribute to the improvement of the people's livelihood, I am sure we will be able to win understanding, and even the other side's understanding.

As has been mentioned, these measures should be applicable also to other areas such as European and Asian countries. If they should be applicable merely to issues existing between Japan and the United States, a question will then arise: Why was it necessary for GATT talks to be held recently? I believe that in tackling these issues, attention must be paid to these factors. [passage omitted on Tanaka's remarks on increase in investment]

[Tanaka] Incidentally, there is an item on deregulation in the recently-signed document on the items for confirmation in establishing the new coalition administration. However, the expression seems to indicate retrogression as compared with the statement in the Administrative Reform Outlines [ARO] published last February. It merely says that market revitalization should be promoted through extensive easing of excessive economic regulations. No mention was made on the original ARO statement which says economic regulations should be abolished in principle.

Does this indicate that there is retrogression in the ARO principle because of various factors such as bureaucrats' influence or pressure from individual industrial organizations?

[Hata] No. It is so stated as a brief expression but I believe there is no such influence or pressure. As a cabinet member, I have stated my views at various meetings, including panel sessions on this issue sponsored by industrial circles on some occasions. Executives of some industrial organizations have even called for implementing deregulation, maintaining that they are now determined because they understand that in easing or abolishing economic regulations, some circles are bound to be hit hard but that a society genuinely filled with vitality can never be created without overcoming such difficulties. In fact, just recently I made these remarks at a meeting held about a week or 10 days before my tour to Marrakech. [passage omitted on Uno's remarks on administrative reform]

[Yamagishi] I also have something to say. I agree with your opinion. After all, it is not good for the future of Japan if it continues to be the only nation in the world with a huge trade surplus. It is necessary for Japan not only to cut its trade surplus but also to promote a shift from an external demand-oriented economy to a domestic demand-oriented one. Japan is called a nation with high nominal wages but low real wages. Why is this so? It is because commodity prices are high in this nation. In particular, housing and food prices are very high compared with those in Europe and the United States. It is a stark fact that price gaps exist between Japan and other countries. The government needs to promote thorough deregulation to rectify the price gaps. Mr. Hata just explained the policy platform agreed upon by the ruling parties. I receive this platform positively because I believe it has been formulated based on the agreement on the abolition of economic regulations reached when the Hosokawa cabinet was inaugurated. But it will not be easy to promote it. It is certain that bureaucrats will strongly oppose deregulation. In that case, the prime minister will be asked to exercise leadership.

I recently met with a senior official of the ruling coalition who is a defector from the Liberal Democratic Party. He said that at the change of cabinet, the new prime minister should obtain letters of resignation from bureaucrats such as administrative vice ministers so that he can dismiss them if they do not give devoted service to the cabinet. I sincerely hope Mr. Hata will exercise powerful leadership.

[Yamamoto] Let us again hear Mr. Hata's resolve to exercise leadership as prime minister.

[Hata] I totally agree with what all of you have said. I met with the chief cabinet secretary and others this morning. In the meeting, they said nothing would change unless the new cabinet promotes deregulation. They expressed anxiety about the future of Japan's society and economy, and asked me to seriously consider what they said. We are fully aware of what you have pointed out. We also know from experience what will prevent the government from promoting deregulation. Keeping in mind what you have said, we will exercise leadership.

[Uno] I am glad that Mr. Hata agrees with us about deregulation. There is another issue coupled with deregulation. That is decentralization of political power. It has been said that the number of regulations should be cut through deregulation, and that of the remaining regulations, those which are related to people's living should be enforced by local governments. What is important in promoting decentralization is to clarify the roles to be played by the central government, local governments, bureaucrats, and the private sector. The government's tasks include tackling diplomatic, security, and financial issues. I hope the government gives more effort to this task. Other issues which can be handled by the private sector or those related to people's living should be taken care of by local governments. I sincerely hope the government will promote decentralization by all means. I believe the former Hosokawa government was considering enacting legislation for deregulation. Also, ruling and opposition parties unanimously adopted resolutions on decentralization at both the upper and lower houses last June. Thus, I hope the new cabinet will continue efforts for decentralization.

[Yamamoto] Now, we will move on to the Korean peninsula issue. Mr. Uno earlier used the word Hokusen. It is not the right name. The correct name is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Well, we have outlined the main points of the coalition parties' fundamental policies. One of them is that they would abide by UN policies on the Korean issue. Does this mean that the government will give all-out cooperation to the United Nations if it decides to impose economic sanctions against North Korea?

[Hata] Generally speaking, yes. However, it is said that the United Nations wants to settle the issue through dialogue while being considerate to the DPRK. I should not comment further on this matter.

[Tanaka] The issue of Japan's cooperation with the United States and the ROK [in time of emergency] was also talked about at the coalition parties' policy meeting. But, the discussion became complicated because the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] wanted to include China in the cooperative ties between Japan, the United States, and the ROK. Eventually, an agreement was reached to drop China. Does that mean the coalition does not want China to be involved in critical matters of security because the United States and the ROK are involved? Was the priority order revealed, so to speak?

[Hata] No, I do not think so. We are allies bound by the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and U.S.-ROK Security Treaty. As I have been saying, China has the strongest influence over the DPRK when it comes to the issue of nuclear arms development. China does not appreciate the existence of nuclear weapons on the Korean peninsula. After all, we must have discussions with China. I think the meeting did not adopt a resolution on this issue but a chairman's statement was announced instead because of China's influential power.

[Tanaka] Japan and the United States talked about the issue of North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development when Les Aspin, then U.S. secretary of state, visited Japan last fall. Of late, William Perry came to

Japan and you had discussions with him on the nuclear issue. Was the U.S. secretary of defense very much worried about the North Korean nuclear issue?

[Hata] Well, I do not think the situation on the Korean peninsula is such that war can break out at the slightest provocation. However, North Korea has to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency's inspections to dispel the suspicion. Otherwise, the suspicion will continue to grow in the international arena.

The United States has deployed Patriot interceptor missiles in South Korea to be prepared for possible attack from North Korea. We are preparing for the worst. Fundamentally, however, we want to settle the issue through dialogue.

[Tanaka] Is the U.S. Government saying that Japan should clarify how it will deal with the issue of North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development?

[Hata] No. The United States clearly understands that Japan will deal with the issue within the scope of the Constitution. Also, it is said that the United States is highly assessing the fact that Japan is holding discussions with China and other countries to settle the issue. Therefore, we think that the United States and Japan clearly understand each other's stand.

[Yamamoto] It is possible that the United States and the ROK may want Japan to stop the remittance of money to North Korea even if the United Nations does not decide to impose economic sanctions against North Korea. Can you comment on this?

[Hata] The United Nations still has not taken up the issue of economic sanctions as a topic of discussion. Therefore, we should not talk about something that is an assumption based on assumptions. Also, I am still only a foreign minister. Generally speaking, however, we will deal with the situation, if anything should happen, within the scope of the Constitution.

[Yamamoto] One of the fundamental policies states that the government will be prepared for an emergency case. Does the emergency case mean military action?

[Hata] North Korea is saying that economic sanctions will be considered as a de facto declaration of war against it. Probably, discussions were made within this context.

[Tanaka] Do you think Japan will have no choice but to take further action to confine North Korean nuclear weapons if the United States says, after the United Nations adopts a resolution, that it has no choice but to assume a clearer stance to confine North Korea's nuclear weapons?

[Hata] Well, I should not comment on this matter either. Generally speaking, however, some countries in other regions are succumbing to the temptation of possessing nuclear weapons. Therefore, the nuclear issue, if North Korea has actually developed nuclear weapons, will have an impact on these countries. Not only the United States but also European countries are interested in the issue of North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons development. Japan, in particular, is North Korea's neighboring country so we just cannot take it easy. We have to say that North Korea, no matter what, should not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

[Yamamoto] Now, I would like to ask you about imminent issues. Do you think it is difficult to make a large-scale cabinet reshuffle because budget deliberations have to start soon?

[Hata] It is hard for me to comment on this matter because I am not yet prime minister. Generally speaking, the most ideal way is for the ministers who were involved in mapping out the budget draft to deal with this matter. However, since we will be forming a coalition cabinet, I think we have to listen to the opinions of each party. We will deal with this matter by taking these factors into consideration.

[Yamamoto] As we have been discussing, the next administration will be confronted with many important tasks. Therefore, some members of Shinseito are of the opinion that you should have a strong cabinet lineup.

[Hata] Every party has different opinions within itself. I think the current cabinet is composed of prominent people. However, there are different movements in each party. Therefore, we need to have a firm understanding of the situation to deal with the important tasks if we continue to remain in power.

[Yamamoto] The leaders of all coalition parties, except for the SDPJ, are in the cabinet. Do you think [SDPJ Chairman] Murayama will join the next cabinet?

[Hata] Again, I can only give you a general opinion. If we become a governing party, then...[changing thought] Originally, we agreed that party leaders would become cabinet members. If they are cabinet members, then we can meet each other every day.

[Yamamoto] You can have a party leaders' meeting every day?

[Hata] That's right. In that sense, I may ask Murayama to join the cabinet. However, the SDPJ may have its own idea.

[Yamamoto] Do you want him to join your cabinet?

[Hata] Judging from previous examples, I think you can say that.

[Yamamoto] The Hosokawa cabinet had some problems with the chief cabinet secretary. What do you think of the role of chief cabinet secretary?

[Hata] It is desirable if the chief cabinet secretary shares the same views as the prime minister.

[Yamamoto] You mean he should play a role of supporting the prime minister?

[Hata] Yes. The chief cabinet secretary is the prime minister's spokesman.

[Yamamoto] They should be on intimate terms.

[Hata] That's right.

[Yamamoto] Does that mean the chief cabinet secretary will be selected from among the Shinseito members?

[Hata] Well, I still am not prime minister yet. I can only answer you in a general way on this matter too.

[Yamamoto] You will also have to select a new foreign minister, your successor. It is a very important post. Do you think factions will be an important factor in selecting your successor?

[Hata] I do not think so. We are in the coalition so that I should make no bones about such things. However, we need to choose a suitable person for the post.

[Tanaka] I heard that many current ministers will remain in their posts. If that is so, then are you going to ask your ministers to take a clear leadership role to promote administrative reform? As has been said before, your cabinet will be calling for free economic activities, in principle, and thereby allowing the private sector to display its own vital power. Are you going to tell your ministers to play a leadership role at each critical moment?

[Hata] Needless to say, I have to do that if I am in such a position. As I said earlier, this is an issue which can be done only at the time of administration change. No zoku [group of people concerned with specific issues] exists, and members share the same intention when a new administration is formed. Therefore, that will be a good change to do what you have just said. Also, a direction for decentralization of the government can be set only at that time.

[Tanaka] The voters will critically evaluate your cabinet lineup. As prime minister, are you going to tell your ministers how you will evaluate their performance? Did any prime minister give such an instruction to his cabinet members before?

[Hata] When I became agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister, I was told to do everything as I wished because I had been doing what I was expected to do.

[Tanaka] Are you going to say the same thing to your ministers?

[Hata] If I become a prime minister, I will ask my ministers to do their best.

[Yamamoto] Since politics is changing significantly, some people, needless to say, may say that the new administration should listen to the people's opinions as soon as possible. What do you think of holding a general election?

[Hata] During the previous general election, the voters criticized the closed nature of politics. Another thing is that they wanted to see changes in Japanese politics. Somebody said earlier that nothing has changed. Well, the LDP became an opposition party and former opposition parties became ruling parties. I suppose it appeared strange to the people at the beginning. However, when you look around coolly, you will note that things are changing significantly.

[Yamamoto] Does that mean that the next election will be held under the new system? It will not be held under the current medium-sized precinct system?

[Hata] Fundamentally, I do not think that we should not restrict the prime minister's right to dissolve a cabinet. In this sense, it is possible that a general election can be held under the current system. However, we survived the previous election so that we have a general idea of what the people want. We need to respond to people's expectations. It is not the time to think about dissolving the cabinet now. [passage omitted on remarks by Uno and Yamagishi]

[Yamamoto] Somebody said earlier that you should make a new ministerial post in charge of international relations. What do you think of this proposal?

[Hata] Again, I have to speak on the assumption that I am in the position of forming a new cabinet. Anyhow, it will be difficult to do so if we have a double power structure. I know that some people are of the opinion that I should create the new ministerial post. However, I still do not have a clear plan for forming the new post.

[Yamamoto] The time is up. Thank you very much for being with us today.

Tsutomu Hata Elected New Prime Minister 25 Apr

OW2504044494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Tsutomu Hata, 58, leader of Shinseito, was elected Japan's new prime minister Monday by the House of Representatives, succeeding Morihiro Hosokawa, whose coalition cabinet resigned earlier in the day.

Discusses Changes in Cabinet

OW2504040994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0341 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Outgoing Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, who is virtually certain to become premier later in the day, repeated suggestions Monday that he may ask Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Tomiichi Murayama to join the new cabinet.

Hata also indicated at a press conference after an extraordinary cabinet meeting, where the eight-month-old cabinet of prime minister Morihiro

Hosokawa resigned, that the changes in the new cabinet will be small to middle-scale.

Hata said that "in general," it is better to have heads of coalition parties in the cabinet to reflect the parties' opinions, indicating he may ask Murayama to join the cabinet. There were six SDP cabinet ministers in the Hosokawa government but Murayama did not hold any cabinet post.

Hata, who was also deputy premier in the Hosokawa administration, said that in principle, it is desirable for the ministers who helped compiled the fiscal 1994 budget bill to remain in the cabinet and respond to upcoming Diet interpellations on the budget.

Reviewing his eight-month-long tenure as foreign minister, Hata said he felt the world expected Japan to speak up more on the international scene.

Japan could make various proposals on problems such as population, environment, AIDS, disarmament and arms control, he said.

Hata also said foreign ministers should not change so often and that he regrets he was only able to hold the post for eight months.

He also said Japan should push ahead with deregulation.

Formation of Cabinet Delayed

OW2504133094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1323 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The formation of newly elected Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's cabinet was delayed Monday [25 April] because the Social Democratic Party (SDP) reacted sharply to the abrupt establishment of a new 130-legislator parliamentary group in the House of Representatives that excludes the party.

An intracoalition standoff intensified a few hours after the Diet voted to sweep Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party] leader Hata, 58, to power as the replacement for Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

The new parliamentary caucus, named "Kaishin (Innovation)," comprises Shinseito, the Japan New Party, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), as well as two splinter groups that recently defected from the opposition Liberal Democratic Party—the Liberal Party and Kaikaku no Kai.

By incorporating former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi, the parliamentary strength of the new camp shot up to 130. Yamaguchi himself is an LDP rebel. The group's strength has already dwarfed the SDP's strength of 74.

Wataru Kubo, secretary general of the SDP, blasted the sudden attempt to alter the coalition's makeup for betraying the SDP, which was the largest contingent in the ruling coalition.

The SDP apparently perceives the sudden convergence of five political blocs as a move aimed at accomplishing a proposal by the Shinseito-led conservative mainstream to create a new unified party, political analysts said.

Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa and his Komeito counterpart Yuichi Ichikawa originally proposed such a convergence to defeat the LDP in an upcoming general election under the newly legislated electoral system, which has introduced a mix of single-seat constituencies and proportional representation.

The leaders of the coalition were originally scheduled to begin talks on the formation of a second coalition at 4 P.M. [0700 GMT] but the SDP's rage apparently delayed the start of the consultations for more than four hours until SDP Chairman Tomiichi Murayama went to the premier's official residence at 8:30 P.M. However, Murayama walked out of the meeting 18 minutes later to discuss his party's response at the SDP Headquarters.

The move suddenly gathered momentum when DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi told DSP legislators the coalition parties should initiate such a parliamentary group to create a "firm support base" for the Hata administration. The DSP leader was earlier one of the chief critics of such a move.

Kubo, the SDP's chief strategist, told reporters, however, "it is a universal rule to live by the etiquette based on mutual trust and obligations. It is outrageous for them to suddenly initiate this move on the very day of a cabinet formation despite the fact that the SDP has cooperated with other coalition partners in running the government until today," Kubo said.

Ouchi later told a news conference, "the reason why we have to establish the parliamentary group to back up the new prime minister is to facilitate the implementation of the nine-point policy platform agreed upon by the coalition parties."

The platform was created after two weeks of squabbles and standoffs since Hosokawa suddenly announced his resignation April 8.

Ouchi also said, "We need to consolidate the parliamentary base to support the prime minister and we put together parties that could quickly agree to the convergence as it is hard to enlist all the parties immediately into the new group."

Meets With Shinseito Legislators

OW2504105794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Tsutomu Hata was elected prime minister Monday [25 April] by Japan's bicameral Diet, as Japan faces such crucial issues as a trade row with the United States, tax reform and the suspected North Korean development of nuclear weapons.

Hata, 58, leader of Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], a core party in the coalition, became Japan's 51st premier and the sixth prime minister in five years, succeeding Morihiro Hosokawa, 56. [passage omitted]

Later in a meeting with Shinseito legislators, Hata appealed for greater allegiance, saying "Japan is facing difficult times domestically and internationally." He was apparently referring to the recession, trade tensions with the United States and the North Korean nuclear issue. "If Japan made a wrong policy choice, it would plunge into an abyss and historians (of the future) will look back and say there used to be a country named Japan," Hata warned.

He hinted, however, that he would not lead Japan to take a high profile role in U.N. peacekeeping efforts, saying, "I am not asserting that the Japanese should go abroad carrying bazookas on their shoulders."

LDP president Kono called on Hata to step up efforts for political reform to restore the credibility of Japanese politics.

"I want to see him work toward dispelling the people's distrust in politics," Kono told reporters. "I heard the ruling coalition say repeatedly that it should follow through on promised political reform in order to restore the credibility of politics," Kono said.

Former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe of the LDP urged the governing coalition to live up to its vow to implement policies earlier agreed upon as a policy platform. "I want the Hata administration to carry out policies which were worked out by Shinseito," said Watanabe, who threatened in mid-April to leave the party in a bid to seek the premiership, hoping for backing from some of the ruling coalition. The leader of the LDP's third-largest faction said, "we will extend our support for (the Hata administration's) policies that could help our country, while withholding support for any policies that could not."

Reportage on Reaction to Hata's Election Noted

Ministers Urge Continuing Reform

OW2504041494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0409 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan's exiting industrial and economic planning chiefs called Monday for the new government to carry on with deregulation and consumer-based reforms.

After a morning cabinet meeting in which Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's cabinet resigned en masse, Hiroshi Kumagai, head of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), said the survival of Japan's economy depends on further deregulation.

"Japan has taken only the first step in its deregulation efforts," Kumagai said. "The fire for reforms built up by Mr. Hosokawa should not be extinguished."

Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), urged the new government, to be headed by outgoing Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, to put priority on consumers. She said that while promoting deregulation and other reforms, the new government should focus on such issues as seeing that the benefits of the high yen are passed on to consumers and repeated that income tax cuts to stimulate the economy should precede an offsetting hike in such indirect levies as the consumption tax.

Political sources speculated that Kumagai will keep his post as MITI minister under Hata. Kubota said she had heard nothing of her own prospects.

On trade issues, Kumagai hinted at perplexity on new U.S. proposals to restart stalled bilateral "framework" talks, saying Washington's approach should be "a bit clearer."

Contents have not been disclosed of the U.S. proposal Hata received as foreign minister April 15 from trade representative Mickey Kantor at a global trade meeting in Marrakech, Morocco. The United States and Japan have "fundamentally different interpretations" of the framework objectives, a senior MITI official said last week, adding Japan will respond to the U.S. proposal after next week's string of national holidays.

Kono Criticizes Delay in Choice

OW2504041194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—A top opposition lawmaker criticized the ruling coalition on Monday for the lengthy wrangling among its members over key policy issues that caused a delay in selecting the new prime minister. Yohei Kono, president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said, "it took a long time since Prime Minister (Morhihiro) Hosokawa announced his intention to resign."

"That created concerns and caused troubles for the people."

The seven-party coalition agreed on key policy issues last Friday and decided to select Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata as its candidate to succeed Hosokawa, two weeks after Hosokawa said he would step down because of a Diet stalemate over his financial impropriety.

Hata will be elected new prime minister Monday afternoon.

"The coalition should have a serious soul-searching over the political vacuum," Kono told reporters.

The LDP chief also blasted the Hosokawa administration, which came to power with a vow to clean up politics, for its failure to restore the credibility of the Japanese politics. "The people's distrust in politics deepened instead," he said.

"Mr. Hosokawa was himself not so enthusiastic about clarifying the suspicions" over his past financial deals "and the coalition members clammed up on the issue," Kono said.

Kono: Step Up Reform Efforts

OW2504075294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—A top opposition lawmaker Monday called on just-elected Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata to step up efforts for political reform to restore the credibility of Japanese politics.

"I want to see him work toward dispelling the people's distrust in politics," said Yohei Kono, president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). "I heard the ruling coalition say repeatedly that it should follow through on promised political reform in order to restore the credibility of politics," Kono told reporters.

Earlier in the day, Hata was elected prime minister to succeed Morihiro Hosokawa, who announced his resignation on April 8 over financial improprieties.

The LDP chief said his party may or may not cooperate with the coalition, depending on whether the new administration will do things for the benefit of the people. "If they carry out steps that bring profits to the people, we will cooperate, but if they take a stance that is not beneficial for the people, we should stand firmly against them," he said.

Kono also said at a meeting of LDP legislators that his party should take a firm stance against the coalition's "forcible" handling of Diet business. "The coalition's forcible way in its handling of Diet business could destroy Japan's democracy...we should firmly oppose that," he said.

Kono earlier criticized the coalition for a delay in selecting Hata as their candidate for premier. "It took too long since Hosokawa announced his intention to resign," Kono said.

"The coalition should do some serious soul searching for the political vacuum," he said.

On the LDP's intraparty affairs, Kono said he had agreed with former Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe over joint efforts for party reform. During the political uncertainty following Hosokawa's resignation announcemment Watanabe expressed his intention to leave the party to become a candidate for the premiership, but later dropped the plan after he failed to secure enough support among the coalition members or among his followers for the move.

Kumano on Hata's Trade Policy

OW2504064394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0636 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan's new government under Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata will uphold the trade policy of his predecessor, Morihiro Hosokawa, a senior trade ministry official said Monday. The basic framework of the ruling coalition will be the same under the Hata government, to be inaugurated later Monday, Hideaki Kumano, vice international trade and industry minister, told a press conference.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will focus "in earnest" on implementing macroeconomic steps and deregulation in line with goals Japan set in the 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package released in February and in a market-opening package adopted last month, Kumano said.

MITI will make particular efforts to deregulate distribution, information and telecommunications as well as land policy.

On trade issues with the United States, he said Tokyo will continue to seek an early reopening of the stalled trade "framework" talks through more dialogue.

Washington has repeatedly said since February's collapse of the framework talks that "the door is still open," while Japan has stressed the need for "more efforts at communication," Kumano said.

On reported new U.S. framework proposals made at an April 15 meeting between Hata as foreign minister and trade representative Mickey Kantor in Marrakech, Morocco, Kumano said both parties agreed to keep the content of the talks secret.

Kumano denied reports that MITI will send a ranking official to Washington after the holiday season next week to respond to the reported U.S. proposals. "Nothing has been decided on the issue," he said.

Saito Urges Economic Measures

OW2504091994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito urged Japan's yet-unformed government Monday to enact a fiscal 1994 budget quickly and called for cooperation to stabilize currency rates. Asked what he hopes to see from the government that new Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata was to form later in the evening, Saito told a regular news conference he would first put priority on the long- delayed budget.

The government of Morihiro Hosokawa was unable to start Diet deliberations on the budget for the fiscal year that started this month, as parliamentary business snagged on the personal financial dealings that toppled Hosokawa.

"It would be nice to see the budget enacted as soon as possible," Saito said. He also noted that a meeting of finance leaders from seven major industrial nations Sunday reconfirmed a Group of Seven (G-7) commitment to exchange rates that reflect economic fundamentals and to avoiding "excessive" fluctuations.

In the future, Saito said, he hopes the G-7 will "cooperate to stabilize the foreign exchange market."

Business Community Welcomes Election

OW2504125894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1241 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The business community welcomed the election Monday [25 April] of Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata as Japan's new prime minister.

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp., said he expects Hata, with deep perspectives and rich experience in administration, to demonstrate his leadership.

Yasuo Shingu, chairman of Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd., expressed hope that the Hata government will take quick action in dealing with pending problems.

Reiichi Yumikura, chairman of the Japan Chemical Fibers Association, urged the government to carry the fiscal 1994 budget through the Diet as soon as possible in view of the slow recovery in the domestic economy.

Masaru Hayami, head of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said the government should try to cut expenditures and abolish or amend the consumption tax to create new sources for public welfare funds.

Yutaka Kume, chairman of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, expressed hope that the government will pave the way for a smooth settlement of external trade problems ahead of a summit of the Group of Seven nations to be held in Naples, Italy this July.

Katsuhiro Utada, vice chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), described Hata as the right person to tackle the major domestic and international issues facing Japan.

Utada cited the issues as an early enactment of the 1994 state budget pending before the Diet and resumption of negotiations for a new trade framework between Japan and the United States.

Utada, honorary chairman of Ajinomoto Co., said the urgent task facing the ruling coalition is to stabilize the political situation and Hata is the most suitable person for the mission.

DSP Leader Urges New Political Bloc for Hata

OW2504101894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1011 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—A leader of the ruling coalition Monday urged the formation of a new joint political alliance in the House of Representatives to support newly-elected Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata. Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), said, "We should create a strongly united grouping to support new Prime Minister Hata."

He said he wants to see a new bloc to be established among such parties as Hata's Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], Japan New Party (JNP) and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger]. Ouchi made the call in a meeting of DSP legislators.

Shinseito, the JNP headed by the just-resigned former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, and the four-member Kaikaku no Kai of a parliament group in the lower house decided to join the new bloc, named "Kaishin (Innovation)," party sources said.

However, Sakigake head Masayoshi Takemura, the chief cabinet secretary in the Hosokawa cabinet, rejected the scheme.

Some 130 lower house members are expected to take part in the new group, including splinter groups that recently left the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, such as New Party Mirai and the Liberal Party.

Joint Parliament Group Formed by 130 Members

OW2504120094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—A 130-member joint parliamentary group was formed in the House of Representatives on Monday [25 April] to support newly elected Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata. The group, called "Kaishin" (Renovation), comprises Hata's 62-member Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party], the 37-member Japan New Party (JNP) led by Hata's predecessor as premier Morihiro Hosokawa, the 19-member Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), the seven-member Liberal Party and the four-member Kaikaku no Kai, party officials said.

Toshio Yamaguchi, an independent member, also joined the bloc.

The Liberal Party led by Koji Kakizawa and Kaikaku no Kai led by Takeo Nishioka were formed by defectors from the opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

New Party Mirai (Future), another five-member LDP breakaway, did not join "Kaishin" but plans to take part in the future, a senior Shinseito official said.

DSP Chairman Keigo Ouchi urged the formation of a new joint alliance, saying, "we should create a strongly united grouping to support new Prime Minister Hata." Ouchi made the call in a meeting of DSP legislators.

However, new party Sakigake [Harbinger] head Masayoshi Takemura, the chief cabinet secretary in the Hosokawa cabinet, rejected the scheme.

Sakigake, poised to distance itself from the dominant Shinseito-Komeito alliance in the coalition, has pledged not to take a post in the new government but voted for Hata in the prime ministerial vote in the Diet.

Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the 74-member Social Democratic Party (SDP), expressed displeasure with the move toward a joint alliance, saying, "I cannot say it is good or bad. But also I cannot say 'please do as you like'."

DSP sources said Ouchi and Shinseito Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa, the chief strategist in the coalition, met secretly at the end of last week and agreed on the formation of a new joint parliamentary group.

Hosokawa called for the creation of a joint parliamentary group, called "Kaikaku" (Reform), with other coalition parties in the lower house on April 8 when he announced his sudden resignation.

The idea had been frozen because of criticism from Sakigake [Harbinger] and the SDP, which charged that such a proposal would lead to the formation of a large new party amalgamating the JNP, Shinseito and Komeito.

Hosokawa Thanks Public for Reforms Cooperation

OW2504033094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Morihiro Hosokawa, who quit as prime minister Monday, thanked the public for their understanding and assistance to reform efforts he promoted over the past eight months. Noting his administration achieved some reforms that his predecessors could not, including political reform, Hosokawa said he was grateful to the public for their "warm encouragement and help."

"It is extremely painful that I have to leave office halfway through my reform efforts (and) at a time when there are a number of domestic and foreign challenges...I don't know how to apologize to the public for that," Hosokawa said in a statement. But he sought understanding of his decision to resign, saying he had to take political and moral responsibility for the delay in Diet budget debate and for his involvement in questionable financial dealings.

Hosokawa, who rose to power last August, also expressed hope the next administration will deal squarely with a host of formidable domestic and foreign policy tasks and "herald a new era for Japanese politics."

At an extraordinary cabinet meeting earlier Monday, Hosokawa thanked cabinet members for their cooperation with his reform efforts and vowed to support the next government as a legislator, Chief Cabinet Secretary Masayoshi Takemura said.

Takemura, speaking at his last news conference as the Hosokawa government spokesman, said he felt as if he set sail for the rough seas when he started working as part of the Hosokawa administration. "Today, I feel I can come ashore after so much time," he said, adding he wants to make full use of his eight-month experience at the center of power and get ready for an expected political reconfiguration.

North Korea

Daily Cites U.S., IAEA 'Unreasonable' Demand

SK2504051994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0507 GMT 25 Apr 94

["Unreasonable Demand Cannot Be Met"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today brands the demand of the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] for the DPRK's full compliance with the safeguards agreement, which was contained in a "presidential statement" of the U.N. Security Council, as unjustifiable and unreasonable.

The news analyst says:

Their demand ignoring the DPRK's unique status following the temporary suspension of the effectuation of its announced withdrawal from the Non-proliferation Treaty shows they are trying to deny the unique status of the DPRK and use the safeguards agreement as an experient for the sinister political purpose of stifling it.

We cannot fully comply with the safeguards agreement, even if we try before the United States and the IAEA prove in practice that they are not going to stifle the DPRK.

So long as the United States refuses to stop the anti-DPRK campaign and its nuclear threat and the IAEA Secretariat fails to renounce its partiality, we cannot allow inspection activities tantamount to routine and ad hoc inspections.

It is self-evident that if we allow such inspection activities while the IAEA is escalating its partiality, dishonest officials of the IAEA Secretariat will join-more zealously in the U.S. policy of stifling the DPRK, groundlessly charging us with the possession of something which we do not have, and reversing black and white.

When the United States and the IAEA Secretariat respect our unique status, the nuclear issue will be settled smoothly.

How long our unique status lasts depends on the behavior of the United States and the IAEA Secretariat.

Pressure cannot be a solution to the problem.

It is our consistent position to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue and negotiation.

It is entirely up to the United States and the IAEA Secretariat how the situation will develop.

Radio Denounces Patriot Deployment to Front Line

SK2204131494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1213 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] According to Seoul KBS-1 Radio, on 21 April the U.S. imperialists finally began to deploy new-model Patriot missiles to the central region of the front line in South Korea, despite strong protest and denunciation by the Korean people and by a broad range of world public opinion. This is an open challenge to us and is aimed at threatening us militarily and carrying out a preemptive strike against the Northern half of the Republic.

The beginning of the U.S. deployment of new-model Patriot missiles to the central region of the front line while talking about a nonexisting offensive threat by someone else is a deliberate, dangerous military act [uidojogin wihomhan kunsa haengdong] to make the situation on the Korean peninsula more unstable [touk puranjonghage hago], and further, to prompt [yubal] a new war.

The deployment of new-model Patriot missiles in broad daylight plainly shows that the U.S. authorities can cast any international agreement away like dirt to achieve their goal of aggression, taking no regard of the Armistice Agreement or the armistice organization.

The U.S. imperialists should discreetly act, being well aware what grave consequence will result from the deployment of new-model Patriot missiles, which pose a great threat to the peace and security of Korean peninsula and the Far East.

Radio Calls Perry's Trip to ROK 'Criminal Act'

SK2204135694 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] According to reports from Seoul, U.S. Defense Secretary Perry made a junket [haenggak] to South Korea from 19 to 21 April.

Perry's junket to South Korea was a junket of war to examine, on the spot, how their plan of a war of Northward aggression had been carried out and give new instructions to the puppets.

During the junket, Perry met with traitor Kim Yong-sam, puppet Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae, and puppet Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu respectively, held one military confab [kunsajok moui] after another, mapped out vicious plans [hyunggye] to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise before the end of this year, build up the U.S.-South Korea combined forces, strengthen the cooperation system, and pursue the UN Security Council sanctions [jeje] against the North. This is an unforgivable criminal act to bring the situation on the Korean peninsula to a crisis phase and cause a very dangerous situation.

Dailies Denounce Perry Visit

SK2304051194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 23 Apr 94

["U.S. Defense Secretary's Trip to South Korea Denounced"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—Papers here today condemn the U.S. defense secretary's visit to South Korea as a war trip intended to unleash another war on the Korean peninsula, an aggressive trip to increase the military dependence of South Korea and a trip of plunder for fleecing the South Korean people through arms sale.

A NODONG SINMUN analyst, commenting on the war confabs Perry and the Kim Yong-sam group held with a view to doing harm to the DPRK, says:

Raving that the North would "invade the South" if sanctions are taken by the United Nations, the U.S. defense secretary described their military step as one intended to prevent it and made quite a noise as if it were the DPRK, not the United States, that violated the DPRK-USA agreed conclusions.

This is a jargon that could be uttered only by such warmaniacs as Perry who are accustomed to justifying their moves of aggression and war. It is the United States, not the DPRK, that failed to implement the agreed conclusions reached at the DPRK-USA contact in New York.

It goes without saying that the United States needed to mass its Armed Forces in South Korea, an alien land, only to provoke a war.

Perry decided to resume the "Team Spirit" war gamble with the puppets under unreasonable pretexts. This shows that they have no intention to seek a peaceful solution of the nuclear issue, and reveals his criminal intention to take the road of military adventure after massing U.S. Armed Forces on the Korean peninsula on the pretext of the North's "nuclear issue". Before setting foot in South Korea Perry sent Apache helicopters and Patriot missiles, and when he met with the puppets he pressured them to purchase heavy weapons of the United States, pressing home the need to build up the combat power of the U.S. forces and the puppet Army.

It is the intention of the United States to rake up colossal profits by forcing them to open not only the rice market but even the arms market of South Korea.

All this proves that the United States unilaterally discarded the Korean Armistice Agreement that prohibits the introduction of arms into South Korea for a war and the DPRK-USA joint statement on refraining from a nuclear threat to the DPRK and that the South Korean puppets nullified the North-South joint declaration on denuclearization that bans the introduction, deployment and production of nuclear weapons and are openly racing headlong along the road of war against the fellow countrymen.

The U.S. imperialists and the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique are recklessly trying to stifle the DPRK with "strength", but it is a miscalculation.

The United States must know clearly that military pressure or "sanctions" cannot work with the DPRK.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets finally push the situation on the Korean peninsula to a dangerous phase of war, they would be unable to escape a thousand-fold blow.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst warns that the aggressors and the traitors must act not rashly but prudently, clearly mindful of what tragic consequences their war frenzy would bring to them.

U.S. Paper Cited on ROK Plans To Buy Weapons

SK2304082494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] According to a report in the U.S. paper THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, cited by the South Korean KBS-1 radio, the Kim Yong-sam traitorous nation-selling clique agreed with the U.S. authorities to purchase Apache offensive helicopters, anti-tank missiles, and other ultramodern weapons from the United States.

The puppet authorities will soon start purchasing weapons and when these weapons are brought into South Korea, the puppet Army's arms buildup plan, pushed for by the Kim Yong-sam group under instigation of the U.S. imperialists, will be completed ahead of schedule.

Reporting this, the paper revealed that the issue of purchasing U.S. military equipment was stressed during the talks between U.S. Defense Secretary Perry, who made a junket to Seoul a few days ago, and puppet high-ranking officials.

U.S. Conducts 'Aerial Mobile Deployment' Exercise

SK2304040194 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] According to military sources, the U.S. imperialists conducted aerial mobile deployment exercises on 21 April by flying various aircraft, including fighter-bomber planes loaded with nuclear weapons, to South Korea from its overseas bases.

On 21 April, some 10 fighter-bomber planes, pursuit-assault planes, and vertical take-off and landing attack planes loaded with nuclear weapons took off from Okinawa and Yokosuka bases in Japan for deployment to the U.S. Air Force bases occupying South Korea. The frantic war exercise was aimed at evaluating a speedy deployment to the Korean peninsula and actual fighting deployment capabilities.

On the other hand, on 20 April, KC-135 refueling planes flew from overseas bases over the sea off Kunsan, South Korea, and were frenzied with war fever by refueling tens of fighter-bomber planes and pursuit-assault planes, which were running wild in night aerial war exercises, from 1900 [1000 GMT] to 2200 [1300 GMT].

On 21 April, the South Korean puppets frantically exercised gun firing and helicopter sorties right in front of our nose near the DMZ. That day, 105-mm large-caliber artillery groups, which occupied firing positions in Naedae-ri, Chorwon County, Kangwon Province, and Magori, Yonchon County, Kyonggi Province in South Korea, fired tens of bomb shells near the DMZ. The puppet Army's armed gangsters, which occupied combat positions in Yongsan-ri, Paju County, Kyonggi Province, and Kangsan-ri and Yangjae-ri, Chorwon County in the South Korean Kangwon Province, wielded a horrible war frenzy by randomly shooting some 1,000 shots of large-caliber machine guns.

In addition, on the same day, the puppet Army's armed helicopters and transport helicopters ran wild in exercising ground support and air transport in the skies over areas adjacent to Pochon, Yonchon, and Chorwon of the South Korean Kangwon Province.

The fire game commotion of the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets is further aggravating the war risk on the Korean peninsula.

U.S., ROK Hold 'Aerial War Exercise' 22 Apr

SK2404085794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] According to a military source, the U.S. imperialists committed a midnight aerial war exercise aimed at a surprise invasion of the North on 22 April. About 100 planes, including war planes, were mobilized from overseas bases, in addition to the fighter bombers, assault planes, observation planes, and reconnaissance planes affiliated to the U.S. Air Force occupying South Korea, were committed in this provocative war exercise.

This war exercise was carried out frantically from 2300 [1400 GMT] 21 April to 0400 [1900 GMT] 22 April in the skies over the areas of Osan, Yongwol, Kapyong, and Tongduchon. It was a dangerous playing with fire aimed at a nighttime preemptive strike on the strategic targets of the Northern half of the Republic.

The E-3 early-warning plane, which took off from Okinawa on 22 April, made a double flight over the skies of

Kangnung, Chunchon, and Tokchok Island. It was running amok in carrying out all-out plans and commanding the various types of plane units that were bustling about in exercises, such as bombing targets, giving ground support, and aerial war exercises.

As the aerial war exercise took place over a long period of time, a KC-135 refueling plane, which was already mobilized and deployed in South Korea from an overseas base, was mobilized over the skies off the coast of Kunsan and refueled scores of fighter bombers and assault planes participating in the war exercise. Thus, this instigated an atmosphere of war.

Also on this day, a RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane that took off from Kadena base in Okinawa flew into South Korea and flew over the areas of Pochon, Inje, and Kojin for a long period of time. Thus, it committed an act of taking aerial photographs and electronic reconnaissance of the overall regions of the Northern half of the Republic.

Over 500 war planes and 15 reconnaisance planes of various types aimed at invading the North were running amok in the aerial war exercise and espionage acts over the skies of South Korea on 22 April alone.

The frantic commotion of playing with fire being committed day after day by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets aimed at the Northern half of the Republic is driving the condition on the Korean peninsula to a dangerous situation.

KCNA Reports 22 Apr Exercise

SK2404090394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0808 GMT 24 Apr 94

["Acts Bringing Situation to Dangerous Phase"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists staged an exercise for night aerial warfare simulating a surprise strike at the North in the skies above Osan, Yongwol, Kapyong and Tongduchon of South Korea on April 22 under ohe command of an E-3 early warning plane by mobilizing warplanes based overseas and fighter-bombers, assault planes, observation planes and reconnaissance planes belonging to the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea, more than 100 in all, according to military sources.

On the same day, an RC-135 strategic reconnaissance plane which flew to South Korea from the Kadena Base of Okinawa staged an aerial photographing and electronic espionage on the whole area of the Northern half of Korea, making a long-hour flight above Pochon, Inje and Kojin.

More than 500 warplanes and 15 reconnaissance planes were flown in the aerial warfare exercise and espionage directed against the North in the sky above South Korea on April 22.

On April 21, the South Korean puppets fired scores of shells and over 1,000 large-calibre machine-gun bullets in Chorwon County, South Korean Kangwon Province, Hyonchon and Paju Counties, Kyonggi Province. And helicopter gunships and transport helicopters of the puppet Army staged ground support and airlifting exercises in the air above Pochon and Yonchon, and Chorwon, South Korean Kangwon Province.

The unending war games of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are increasing the danger of war on the Korean peninsula.

Radio Reports ROK's Hwarang Military Exercise

SK2404043794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 23 April 94

[Text] According to Seoul radio reports, as soon as warmonger U.S. Defense Secretary Perry left Seoul after hatching a war plot, the Kim Yong-sam traitorous clique announced a plan to stage the Hwarang war exercise in which some 130,000 puppet military personnel, police officers, and reserve forces will be mobilized. The war exercise will take place from 25 April for five consecutive days and will be held in Inchon and areas of Kyonggi Province adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line. In order to instigate hostility and distrust within the nation and heighten antagonism toward the Northern half of the Republic among the South Korean residents, the puppet clique added a drill of countering so-called spy infiltration.

Hwarang Exercises Denounced

SK2404090494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0810 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—The traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique on April 22 announced a plan of "Hwarang" war exercises involving the puppet Army, police and "homeland reserve force", more than 1.3 million strong, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The 5-day exercises will begin on April 25 with Inchon and Kyonggi Province adjacent to the Military Demarcation Line as the theatre.

The facts clearly prove once again that the traitorous Kim Yong-sam clique is trying to find a way out of the crisis in the provocation of a war against the North, following in the footsteps of the preceding military fascist dictators. The fact that the plan of a massive war game was declared right after the powder-reeking trip to Seoul of the U.S. defense secretary fully reveals that the criminal tour was aimed at egging the puppet clique on to provoke another war against the North.

Radio Reports ROK Prime Minister's Resignation

SK2404002494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 23 April 94

[Text] According to Seoul radio reports, on 22 April, puppet Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang tendered his resignation to the Chongwadae [presidential office] after serving only four months in office. Stunned, the ruling Democratic Liberal Party denounced his act as irresponsible.

In the meantime, opposition Democratic Party leader Yi Ki-taek, who is visiting the United States, held an emergency news conference regarding the resignation of the puppet prime minister and demanded the resignation of the entire puppet cabinet in the wake of the puppet prime minister's resignation. He expressed a strong opposition to the fact that traitor Kim Yong-sam has designated Yi Yong-tok, current deputy prime minister and unification minister, as the new puppet prime minister, and revealed that he will vote in the National Assembly against Yi Yong-tok as the new puppet prime minister.

The puppet prime minister's surprising resignation clearly shows that the Kim Yong-sam regime is floundering in an impasse it created itself while committing flunkeyist traitorous acts.

Trade Union Urges South To Respond to Proposal

SK2204152794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1517 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 22 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK) in a statement today denounced the South Korean authorities's negative stand toward the DPRK's proposal for the convocation of a national conference and urged them to look straight at the nation's aspirations and respond to the proposal.

Noting that the South Korean authorities showed a negative response to the proposal, saying "a conference oriented toward political propaganda is undesirable", the spokesman says this fully reveals their true color as flunkeyist traitors trying to plunge the nation into the scourge of war in league with outside forces, instead of sitting at a negotiating table with fellow countrymen to solve the question of national reunification independently.

He said, "Our working class and the whole nation can never tolerate the criminal moves of the Kim Yong-sam group which is taking the extremely dangerous road to a nuclear war in league with outside forces, disregarding the proposal for the convocation of a national conference which was prompted by our warm love of the nation and the stand of national independence to bridge over the present difficulties and open a broad avenue for reunification through the great unity of the nation."

"The South Korean authorities must immediately remove the checkbar which they dropped on the road ahead of the political parties, organizations and personages of broad strata in South Korea intending to participate in a national conference," the spokesman said.

He called upon all the workers and other sections of people of South Korea to actively turn out in a patriotic struggle for the convocation of a national conference which would open up a short cut to reunification in the '90s.

Daily Denounces ROK's Suppression of Demonstrators

SK2404092594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0836 GMT 24 Apr 94

["Pro-U.S. Flunkeyist Traitor's Fascist Violence"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—The Kim Yong-sam group, in its fascist violence on April 20, walked away some 150 students affiliated with the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon) who broke into the puppet Defense Ministry building and denounced William Perry's South Korean trip and brutally suppressed the struggle of students in Seoul and Kwangju against Perry's visit and deployment of Patriot missiles in South Korea.

A NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

The students' struggle this time can never be a target of suppression. It displayed their patriotic will to defend the wellbeing and dignity of the nation against the aggression and war policy of outside forces.

The object of overthrow is the Kim Yong-sam group bent on igniting a war and plunging the nation into a nuclear holocaust in league with outside forces.

The Kim Yong-sam group invited Perry to South Korea, begged for "sanctions" against the North and reinforcement of the U.S. forces and an "early deployment" of latest-type military equipment in South Korea.

The patriotic students courageously turned out in the struggle against Perry's war trip because the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique were scheming to impose the disaster of a nuclear war on the nation. Nevertheless, the Kim Yong-sam group, far from turning an ear to the just demand of students and people, wielded the sword at the patriotic students. What a disgusting and despicable act of a pro-U.S., flunkeyist traitor and warhawk it is.

The valiant struggle of the South Korean students who ardently desire peace and reunification is supported and praised by the whole nation now.

Their righteous struggle and patriotic spirit can by no means be blocked or broken with anything.

The Kim Yong-sam puppet clique which is resorting to treacheries, clinging to the coattails of outside forces, estranged from the fellow countrymen, cannot evade judgement by the nation.

Vietnamese Party Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang

SK2304152394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1516 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] led by Hong Ha, secretary of its Central Committee [C.C.], arrived here today.

It was met at the airport by Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the C.C., the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], Kim Yang-kon, vice department director of the C.C., the WPK, and Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea Duong Chinh Thuc.

Hanoi Press Agency Reports Arrival

BK2504153794 Hanoi VNA in English 1427 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 25—A delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by Mr. Hong Ha, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV CC) on April 23 arrived in Pyongyang for a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The visit is made at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Korea Worker's Party.

During its talks with a delegation of the Central Committee of the Korea Workers' Party, the two sides briefed each other on the situations of their respective countries and parties and compared notes on international issues of common concern, and discussed measures to promote friendly cooperative relations between the two countries as well as the two parties.

Mr. Hong Ha reaffirmed Vietnam's support for the DPRK's efforts in building socialism, and struggling for peace, sovereignty and national reunification.

The Korean head delegate welcomed the Vietnamese party delegation's visit as a new manifestation of the development of the relations between the two parties and peoples. He also affirmed the determination of his party to further enhance the solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The two sides exchanged views on measures to bring the Vietnam-DPRK relations to a new level of development for the interests of the two peoples, for peace, cooperation and development in Asia-Pacific and all over the world.

On the same day the Vietnamese delegation visited President Kim Il-song's home land and toured a number of cultural establishment in Pyongyang.

WPK, CPV Delegations Hold Talks

SK2504054594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0511 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 25 (KCNA)—Talks were held between delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] in Pyongyang on Sunday.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were Secretary of the WPK Central Committee Hwang Chang-yop and officials concerned and on the Vietnamese side the members of the delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam headed by Secretary of its Central Committee Hong Ha and Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea Duong Chinh Thuc.

At the talks the sides briefed each other on the activities of their parties and exchanged views on further development of the relations between the two parties and a series of matters of common concern.

The head of the delegation said the Korean people owe their achievements in socialist construction to the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in the Korean revolution.

He expressed full support to the Korean people's cause of socialism and national reunification and the stand of the DPRK for a negotiated solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Meeting Held To Mark KPA Founding Anniversary

National Meeting Opens 24 Apr

SK2404112494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 24 (KCNA)—A national meeting was held at the 6,000-seat theatre of the February 8 House of Culture today to mark the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA] (April 25, 1932).

A portrait of the great leader President Kim Il-song was placed on the platform of the meeting hall.

The meeting was attended by KPA Marshal O Chin-u, Presidium member of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], first vice-chairman of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK, member of the party Central Military Commission and minister of People's Armed Forces; Vice-President Pak Song-chol who is Politburo member of the C.C., the WPK; and other senior party and government officials and officers and men of the Korean People's Army and working people in the city.

Members of delegations and visiting groups of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan [Chongnyon] staying in the socialist homeland were also present.

Military attaches of foreign embassies here were invited to the meeting.

Vice Marshal of the KPA Kim Kwang-chin, member of the National Defence Commission of the DPRK, made a report at the meeting.

The reporter recalled that the cause of building revolutionary Armed Forces in Korea was started [by] the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and has been promoted constantly under the leadership of the party and the leader along with the victorious advance of the revolutionary cause of chuche.

When he was hewing the path of the Korean revolution, Comrade Kim Il-song deeply analysed the historical lessons of the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement of Korea and put forward the policy of organising an armed struggle against Japanese imperialism and building a genuine revolutionary Armed Forces to that end.

Basing himself on the solid political and military foundation he had laid through his energetic efforts to carry out the policy, he founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army on April 25, 1932 and proclaimed the founding of the revolutionary Armed Forces of Korea to the world.

The reporter pointed out that over the past 60 odd years, the revolutionary Armed Forces of Korea have traversed a proud course of victory through a rigorous and arduous struggle and performed immortal feats which will shine long in the history of the country by their heroic struggle.

The reporter quoted Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected supreme commander, as saying:

"Our People's Army has waged a heroic struggle to safeguard the party and the leader and defend the motherland and gains of revolution and performed great exploits for the party and the revolution."

Comrade Kim Il-song strengthened the Korean People's Revolutionary Army into the regular Korean People's Army in a short period after the liberation of the country, drawing on the noble traditions of building revolutionary Armed Forces which had been established during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The invincible might of the KPA was fully demonstrated in the fatherland liberation war.

In the great fatherland liberation war, the KPA officers and men inflicted a disgraceful defeat on the U.S. imperialist aggressors, who had boasted of being the "mightiest" in the world, and honorably defended the independence of the country and the sovereignty of the nation, giving full play to mass heroism and unexcelled self-sacrificing spirit.

The reporter noted that the KPA has entered a new historical period in its development under the outstanding and tested leadership of Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il and that a radical progress has taken place in all spheres of Army building.

The entire ranks of the KPA are filled with the death-defying resolution to remain loyal with a single heart to the party's leadership in whatever storm and stress and become a fortress and shield to defend the respected comrade supreme commander.

Under his leadership, the KPA has grown to be a unit of loyal combatants ready to dedicate their lives for the party and the leader and a strong Army equipped with powerful means of both attack and defence, each man of which is a match for a hundred foes.

Along with the KPA, the combat capabilities of the worker-peasant red guards and the young red guards have been strengthened considerably, all people are armed and the whole country has been consolidated as an impregnable fortress.

We can say confidently that as long as we have the invincible revolutionary Armed Forces and the all-people defence system with the KPA as the core, we can destroy any aggressors and firmly defend the cause of the party, the cause of socialism.

The noble achievements and imperishable exploits of our revolutionary Armed Forces are a brilliant victory of the chuche-based military idea of Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il and results of the outstanding and tested guidance of the party and the leader.

Referring to the grave situation created on the Korean peninsula by the reckless military threats and war moves of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, the reporter declared:

We will never look at it with folded arms.

Although the U.S. imperialists and the international reactionaries are desperately trying to isolate and stifle the DPRK and destroy Korean socialism over the "nuclear issue," no amount of pressure and threat can frighten our people and no strong arm and attempt to stifle the DPRK can work on us.

Our people are a people of decision who do not like an empty talk but mean what they say.

It is our unshakable position to answer dialogue with dialogue, and war with war.

Our people who cherish the independence of the nation and peace of the country do not want a war but will not beg for peace while leaving their dignity violated.

If the U.S. imperialists and their followers unleash a war in Korea, going against the trend of the times, our people and People's Army will fight it out for the party and the leader and for our socialist motherland which has been defended at the cost of blood, wipe out the aggressors to the last man and demonstrate the stamina of heroic Korea once again.

Attending Leaders Listed

SK2404110794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Now we will broadcast on the spot the central report meeting to mark the 62d anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA].

This is the 6,000-seat theater in the 8 February Hall of Culture. The central report meeting to mark the 62d anniversary of the founding of the heroic KPA is going to be held splendidly here. [passage omitted]

Comrade Marshal O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, first vice chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, member of the party Central Military Commission, and minister of the People's Armed Forces; Comrade Pak Song-chol, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council and foreign minister; Comrade Vice Marshal Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission, member of the party Central Military Commission and chief of general staff of the KPA; candidate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; vice marshals of the KPA; vice premiers of the Administration Council; responsible functionaries of the party and government organizations, and workers organizations; old anti-Japanese fighters; commanders of service branches of the KPA; generals of the People's Army; heroes of the Republic; and exemplary combatants, came to the rostrum. [passage omitted]

Kim Kwang-chin Delivers Report

SK2404120794 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0703 GMT 24 Apr 94

['Commemorative report' by Comrade Kim Kwang-chin, member of DPRK National Defense Commission and Vice Marshal of Korean People's Army, KPA, marking 62d anniversary of the founding of the KPA at the 8 February Hall of Culture in Pyongyang—live]

[Text] [applause] Comrades, today when all the people and soldiers of the People's Army are effecting a new upsurge in production and construction, while firmly defending the socialist fatherland by upholding the militant appeal of the party and the leader [suryong] and with single-hearted unity under the revolutionary banner of self-reliance, we are significantly commemorating the 62d anniversary of the founding of the heroic Korean People's Army [KPA].

Marking the KPA founding anniversary—a felicitous revolutionary day—I warmly congratulate the courageous officers and men of the KPA and the Korean People's Security Forces, who are firmly defending the defense line of the fatherland by cherishing a lofty sense of loyalty to the party and to the revolution, in the name of the Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and of the Central Military Commission of the party, under the authorization of the respected comrade supreme commander. [applause]

I also express the lofty sense of reverence to the anti-Japanese revolutionary martyrs and to the patriotic fighters of the People's Army, who dedicated their precious lives for independence and liberation of the fatherland, for freedom of the people, for the party and for the revolution. [applause]

I extend warm congratulations to the old anti-Japanese fighters, old war veterans, disabled soldiers, and discharged soldiers, who registered heroic feats in the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and in the great fatherland liberation war and who are continuously blooming the revolutionary flowers of the socialist construction today. [applause]

I send warm greetings to all people who are vigorously struggling to defend, protect, and glorify the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style in firm unity with the party and the leader and who love and sincerely help the People's Army as if they are their own offspring. [applause]

Comrades, more than 60 years have passed since our people founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA]—their first revolutionary armed forces—to achieve the cause of national liberation by upholding the banner of the chuche idea. At this significant occasion of commemorating the 62d anniversary of the founding of the KPA today, we are recalling with deep emotion the path of honorable struggle along which our revolutionary armed forces have traversed and their immortal achievements.

The cause of independence and the cause of socialism of the popular masses are carried out in a fierce confrontation and struggle against the imperialists and all sorts of reactionaries, and these causes can be carried out successfully by the armed support of the revolutionary armed forces. The country and people without their mighty revolutionary armed forces cannot defend the fatherland and the revolution from the imperialists' aggression, nor can they victoriously advance the cause of socialism.

The cause of building the revolutionary armed forces in our country was pioneered by the great leader Comrade

Kim Il-song, and it was continuously deepened and developed by the victorious advance of the chuche revolutionary cause.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forth a policy on building genuine revolutionary armed forces to organize and improve the armed struggle against the Japanese imperialists based on his deep insight into the historical lesson of our country's anti-Japanese movement for national liberation learned during the period he pioneered the course of the Korean revolution. This was a revolutionary policy purporting that the Korean revolution must be carried out by the Korean people themselves. It was an original policy that opened a new road for the anticolonial war for national liberation and for the building of the revolutionary armed forces. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song formed the KPRA on 25 April 1932 based on a strong political and military foundation, which he himself provided through his energetic struggle to realize his policy on building the revolutionary armed forces, and proclaimed the founding of our revolutionary armed forces to the entire world. [applause]

The founding of the KPRA was a magnificent birth of true chuche-type revolutionary armed forces in our country. It was a historic event that brought forth a momentous turning point in our people's anti-Japanese struggle for national liberation and in the development of their communist movement. [applause]

With the founding of the KPRA, our people could victoriously wage the struggle, on a new higher plane, for the independence of the country and the liberation of the people with their genuine revolutionary armed forces. This was the very starting point of the glorious history of our revolutionary armed forces. Our revolutionary armed forces have traversed a proud victorious road for the past six decades through the blaze of the stern and arduous struggle. With their heroic struggle, our revolutionary armed forces have made immortal achievements that will shine long in the history of the country. [applause]

The respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il has noted: Our People's Army has waged a heroic struggle to defend the party and the leader and to defend the gains of the country and the revolution and has made great accomplishments for the party and the revolution. The KPRA, which was the first rank of our revolutionary armed forces, had to wage a bloody struggle against the strong imperialist enemy right from the time of its founding. The anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle was the most glorious revolutionary war in which our revolutionary armed forces defeated powerful imperialists, fighting with them over a protracted period of time under unprecedented arduous and grim conditions.

During the severe anti-Japanese revolutionary war, when there was no rear area of the nation or support from regular armed forces, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song victoriously organized and led the KPRA while solving difficult and complex problems raised in the course of implementing the general Korean revolution, including the armed struggle, in an original way based on a chuche- oriented position. [applause]

The KPRA men fully demonstrated the revolutionary Army's militant power everywhere by using chuche-oriented hit-and-run tactics under the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's extraordinary military and political leadership. At last, our revolutionary armed forces smashed the Japanese imperialist aggressors and brilliantly achieved the historic cause of liberalizing the fatherland by carrying out the heroic struggle for 15 years while overcoming various trials beyond man's imagination. [applause]

During the fortitude anti-Japanese struggle, the single-hearted unity of revolutionary ranks around the leader [suryong] was achieved, vivid models of the faithfulness of upholding the leader [yongdoja] were created, and our party's brilliant revolutionary traditions were firmly prepared. These are deep and stout roots of our party and Army, as well as an eternal footstone that guarantees the victory of our revolution. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song strengthened and developed the KPRA into the regular armed forces, KPA, in a short period following the liberalization, based on the revolutionary armed forces' valuable traditions prepared in the period of the anti-Japanese struggle. The KPA, the direct descendant of the KPRA, has been strengthened and developed into modern, regular armed forces and has excellently fulfilled its honorable mission in defending our party's cause. The invincible might of the KPA was fully demonstrated in the fatherland liberation war, which was a great revolutionary war in which our people defended their fatherland after defeating [tasung] the U.S. imperialists, the head of world imperialism, for the first time in history by carrying out the heroic all-people struggle.

While saddling himself with the heavy burden for both the front and the rear in the severe period of the life-and-death war—decisive to the destiny of the fatherland—the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song united the entire party, the entire Army, and all the people as one and organized and mobilized them to the sublime struggle to destroy the enemies, thus leading the fatherland liberation war to victory. [applause]

Upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's orders, the wise and brave soldiers of our Army, Navy, and Air Force rose as one and sagaciously fought to defend every inch of the fatherland at the cost of their blood, while bearing deep in mind their lofty mission for the fatherland the people.

Heroic feats of the People's Army officers and men, who guaranteed the victory in the war by destroying the enemy's tanks and warships with human bombs and by blocking the enemy's guns with their hearts on the field of fierce battle with the enemy, will be handed down forever with the history of the great fatherland liberation war. [applause]

During the period of the arduous war, all the people in the rear area, regardless of age or sex, rose and supported [wonho] the front line and ensured wartime production by defending their plants and villages. Thus, they made great contributions to the victory of the war.

Officers and men of our People's Army inflicted disgraceful defeat on the U.S. imperialist aggressors, who boasted being the strongest in the world, by demonstrating mass heroism and a sense of peerless sacrifice in the great fatherland liberation war. Thus, they honorably defended independence of the fatherland and sovereignty of the people. [applause]

Our people, who rose in a just fight against an armed invasion of the imperialists, won active support and encouragement from hundreds of millions of people in the world. In particular, the Chinese people, who carried out a common struggle against the Japanese imperialists for a long time, dispatched support forces under the slogan: "Resist America and aid Korea," and helped our people's struggle with their blood. Our people are always grateful to our friends for the sincere support and encouragement they extended to us during the most arduous period. We will never forget them. [applause]

Our people won victory in fights against the two most atrocious and strong imperialist powers in the anti-Japanese revolutionary war and in the fatherland liberation war. These victories were vigorous demonstrations of the might and invincibility of our revolutionary ranks, who are firmly rallied behind the party and the leader. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward the self-defense military line for converting the entire Army into a cadre Army, for modernizing the entire Army, for arming all people, and for turning the whole country into a fortress, in conformity with the demand of the situation created after the war and of the development of our revolution. He also put forward the outstanding and unique line for advancing economic construction and national defense construction at the same time. He wisely led the struggle to implement the line.

With thorough implementation of the party's line, our People's Army has been strengthened to a one-a-match-for-one-hundred revolutionary armed forces, and our nation came to highly display its dignified appearance as a strong independent, self-reliant, and self-defensive socialist country. [applause]

The People's Army smashed every step of the enemy's constant aggression and war provocation maneuvers, and reliably defended the security of the nation and the people. Thus, the People's Army made a great contribution to construction projects for the nation's prosperity and the people's happiness. Whenever the revolution faced an arduous trial, our People's Army tenaciously defended and protected the party and the leader at the van of struggle, and actively carried to accomplishment the party's line and policy.

When the situation at home and abroad was complicated and difficult after the war, the People's Army firmly defended the party's cause with arms by upholding the slogan: "Let us defend with our lives the party Central Committee headed by Comrade Kim Il-song!"

At the same time, our People's Army displayed heroic feats in the great socialist construction by upholding the slogan of loyalty: "What the party decides, we will do!" Thus, it honorably fulfilled its mission as the Army of the leader, of the party, and of the people. [applause]

Indeed, the brilliant history of our people's revolution has been embroidered with proud feats of our revolutionary Armed Forces registered before the nation and people. The great creations built on the land of the fatherland contain precious blood and sweat of officers and men of the People's Army. Today our People's Army has entered a new historic period of its development by following the outstanding and refined leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, and an epochal turn is being effected in all domains of building the Army. [applause]

Our comrade supreme commander, who directed great efforts to strengthen and develop the People's Army at an early date, put forward the outstanding line of building the Army and remodeling the entire Army on the chuche idea in compliance with the new demand of development of the revolution, and energetically led the struggle to implement the line. The line of remodeling the entire Army on the chuche idea is the most just program for building the Army, which enables us to make officers and men of the People's Army genuine revolutionary vanguards who are unswervingly loyal to the party and to the leader and to provide reliable military insurance for the socialist cause by accomplishing the chuche-based cause for building the Army. [applause]

The line of remodeling the entire Army on the chuche idea has been vigorously accelerated under the outstanding leadership of the respected comrade supreme commander, and as a result, the chuche-based system of commanding the Army, under which the entire Army moves as one under the leadership of the party, has been firmly established within the People's Army. The chuche idea has been thoroughly embodied in all domains of building the Army and military activities, and single-hearted unity and tradition of loyalty have been brilliantly inherited.

Today all ranks of the People's Army are filled with death-defying determination to loyally uphold the leadership of the party, no matter what storm and trial may come forward, and to become a fortress and a shield to defend and protect the respected comrade supreme commander. [applause]

Our comrade supreme commander developed the chuche-oriented tactics in compliance with the demand of modern warfare and with the concrete conditions in our country, and wisely led us to build a powerful modern defense industry and to constantly strengthen combat capabilities and armed equipment of the People's Army. Under the leadership of the respected comrade supreme commander, our People's Army has been fostered to be a loyal combat unit capable of fighting for the party and the leader by dedicating its life and one-a-match-for-one-hundred strong Army with all sorts of powerful offensive and defensive means. Our revolutionary Armed Forces are upholding as their supreme commander the great general and great commander who has indomitable will and courage and outstanding strategy and alchemy. Herein lies the guarantee for all victories and for constant strengthening and developing of our revolutionary Armed Forces. [applause]

Together with the People's Army, combat capabilities of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and Red Youth Guard have been remarkably strengthened, and all people have been armed and the whole country has been further consolidated as an impregnable fortress.

Our party's idea for military-people unity has been brilliantly embodied in the entire Army and whole society, and as a result, blood ties between the military and people have been further intensified at a new higher stage. As long as we have the revolutionary Armed Forces, which have been strengthened and developed into indomitable combat ranks, and as long as we have the all-people defense system with the People's Army as its center, we can smash any aggressor and firmly defend the party's cause—the socialist cause. We can say this with confidence. [applause]

The party, the Army, and the people are firmly united as one with our comrade supreme commander—the great military strategist and iron-willed sagacious commander—as the center, and constitute a strong independent main force of the revolution. Therefore, our socialism is advancing victoriously without wavering even in the midst of violent upheaval. [applause]

This invincible might of our revolution was verified again through a severe trial last year. Last year's political and military confrontation between our people and the U.S. imperialists was a large battle without gunshots. It was also an all-people, life-and-death battle to protect our party and the socialist fatherland.

When the fatherland and the revolution faced a grave trial, our comrade supreme commander took the stern self-defensive measure of declaring a semi-war state of the entire nation, all the people, and the entire Army to cope with the then-prevailing situation.

After receiving the supreme commander's order from the bottom of their hearts, officers and men of the People's Army and all the people launched as one into the struggle to protect the country's sovereignty and revolutionary gains and honorably defended the dignity and safety of their socialist fatherland by smashing the enemy's challenge and aggression maneuver. This was a victory of our comrade supreme commander's extraordinary military strategies, braveness, and iron-firm faith and will as well as a great victory of the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses. [applause]

The valuable achievements and immortal feats registered by our revolutionary Armed Forces were a brilliant victory of the chuche- oriented military ideology of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il as well as the result of the outstanding and seasoned leadership of the party and the leader. [applause]

At this meaningful moment of commemorating the 62d anniversary of the founding of the KPA, I extend the greatest honor and the warmest gratitude, along with the boundless admiration and fervent loyalty of all people across the country and of the People's Army officers and men, to Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, who founded our revolutionary Armed Forces at an early age and has led them along the single road of victory, thus greatly demonstrating the honor of our fatherland and our nation and building a firm military guarantee for the completion of the socialist cause in our country, and to the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, an extraordinary military genius. [applause]

Comrades:

Today's situation for our revolution is very complicate and tense. We must build socialism amid fierce confrontation with the enemy and achieve the historic cause of national reunification. The U.S. imperialists and reactionaries have unprecedentedly strengthened anti-Republic maneuvers in order to isolate and crush our nation—the stronghold of socialism—on pretext of the so-called nuclear problem. By bringing numerous war means and troops into South Korea, they are leading the situation on the Korean peninsula into the brink of war while militarily threatening us. We should further strengthen the People's Army to accelerate the revolution and construction and to firmly defend the popular masses-oriented socialism of our own style under today's acute situation.

The might of the People's Army lies, above all, in its political and ideological superiority. We should intensify the party's political work in the People's Army so as to firmly arm all soldiers with the chuche idea and to make them resolute revolutionary fighters who do not hesitate in sacrificing their youth and lives for the party, the leader, the fatherland, and the people.

The endless loyalty to the party's leadership is the life of the People's Army. Officers and men of the People's Army should thoroughly establish a revolutionary military trait, with which the entire Army acts as one according to the supreme commander's order, and should make all ranks of the People's Army filled with the revolutionary, militant military spirit of working and living in conformity with the party's ideology and intent. [applause]

The ethos of unity between officers and men and between the party and society is an important content of the ideological superiority of the People's Army and lofty trait to be maintained by all soldiers. The officers and men of the People's Army should show the unity between the upper and lower levels, continue to highly display the ethos of unity between officers and men and between the party and society with which they help and lead each other, and further be possessed with lofty traits of a revolutionary army.

The political and ideological superiority of the People's Army can display its invincible might when it is combined with military and technological preparedness. In accordance with the party's military line of self-reliance, we should thoroughly implement the party's policy of turning the whole Army into an army of cadres, a modernized army, and continue to exert efforts to make all the people armored and fortify the entire country, thereby fortify the self-reliant national defense power that is able to resolutely defend and safeguard the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style in any changing situation. [applause]

The People's Army should put emphasis on combat and political training as the fundamental task and thoroughly implement the training methods and principles presented by the party. All soldiers should be strongly armed with our party's military strategic ideology and chuche-motivated war method, foster them as one-a-match-for-a-hundred fighters with high combat efficiency suitable for modern war, and further reinforce the People's Army companies. Highly displaying the traditional ethos of army-people unity is important for strengthening the People's Army and completing the preparations for a combat. Only when the People's Army help the people—the people actively support the Army, and the Army and the people literally become harmoniously united—can the People's Army be strengthened and developed into a matchless rank and win the fights against the enemies.

Officers of the People's Army should maintain the spirit of devoted service for the fatherland and the people, and continue to demonstrate heroic feats in the struggle to build socialist economy and protect the people's lives and property. The people should establish social ethos that stresses military affairs, and love and sincerely support the People's Army as family. In this way, the Army and the people can firmly be prepared to fight as one sharing the destiny of life and death in the contingency.

The single-hearted unity between the party and the revolutionary rank should be strengthened by all means. The single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses is our party's revolutionary philosophy and our revolution's mighty weapon. As did in the past, we should face the enemies with single-hearted unity in the future to push forward and complete our revolution with the might of single-hearted unity. [applause]

All the people and the KPA officers and men should be loyal toward the party and the leader and have their belief and character, and defend our firmly united revolutionary rank's single-hearted unity around the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander like the apples of the eyes.

Economic construction is an important work for firmly building up our socialist revolutionary position. In this regard, we should thoroughly implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy so as to further strengthen and highly display the superiority of socialism of our own style. In order to thoroughly implement the party's revolutionary economic strategy, we should highly manifest the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

We should break through difficulties and obstacles in socialist economic construction with a revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, and at the same time we should continue to work without faltering with the firm ideological determination to carry out assigned revolutionary tasks with our own strength. National reunification is the nation's supreme task that should not be delayed even for a moment. We should achieve the cause of national reunification at the earliest possible date to achieve our nation's unanimous desire. Thus, we should hand a reunified fatherland over to our next generations.

Our party and the Government of the Republic have made all sincere efforts to achieve national reunification under the principle of national independence in conformity with the desire of the whole nation and the desire of the times. However, a graver obstacle has been created on the road ahead of national reunification because of the maneuvers of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

The United States is adhering to the military adventure [kunsajok mohom] to crush [apsal] our Republic by stepping up anti-Republic pressure commotions more openly in the international arena over our nuclear problem. The South Korean authorities frequently stage large-scale military exercises against our Republic in collusion with outside forces and are driving North-South relations to a dangerous phase while talking about military countermeasures and an international cooperation system under the pretext of our nuclear problem.

All of these moves in South Korea show that traitor Kim Yong-sam is precisely an out-and-out flunkeyist nation-seller who surpasses successive puppets, a treacherous and wicked fascist hangman, and implacable warmaniac.

As for our nuclear problem that the U.S. imperialists and their followers are clamoring about, it is a product of the antisocialist and anti-Republic maneuvers that the United States has been tenaciously perpetrating. It is precisely the United States who brought nuclear weapons to the Korean peninsula and is actually threatening us. It is also the United States who clamors about the suspicion of the nonexistent nuclear development in the North. Even now the United States is deploying improved new type missiles to South Korea and is, thus, further strengthening military pressure on us. This proves that the United States has not renounced its wild ambition to keep hold on South Korea as an advanced base of the Far East and that it is using the nuclear problem as a means to isolate and crush our Republic.

The danger of war is growing momentarily on the Korean peninsula because of the reckless military threat and war provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique [choson pandoesonun chonjaengui wihomi sisi kakkakuro kogago issomnida].

Today, at a time when our nation, which has been forced by outside forces to endure the sufferings of division for half a century, is faced with even the danger of suffering the holocaust of nuclear war. We can never look at this grave situation with folded arms. Although they are frantically running wild to isolate and suffocate our Republic and crush our socialism under the pretext of the nuclear problem, the U.S. imperialists and international reactionaries cannot frighten our people with any pressure, threat, or blackmail, and no high-handedness or pressure can fool us. As recognized by the world, our people do not like to engage in empty talk. They are a resolute people [kyoltansong innun inmin] who will do what they say they will and will not do anything when they say they will not. Responding to dialogue with dialogue and to war with war is our firm position. [applause]

Our people who treasure the nation's independence and the country's peace do not want war, but we will not beg for peace even if our sovereign rights are infringed upon. Pursuing aggression and war under the pretext of peace is the imperialists' conventional means. All situations taking place today on the Korean peninsula and the international arena show that the imperialists' aggressive and plunderous nature will not change at all and that we must not have any kind of fantasy about imperialism.

The officers and men of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces and members of the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and Red Youth Guards must be firmly armed with the chuche-oriented point of view on war, observe with vigilance the moves of the enemies, and assume a full combat readiness to destroy in a single blow whenever and wherever the enemies attack. [applause]

If a war breaks out on the Korean peninsula where U.S. nuclear weapons are concentratedly deployed, it will easily draw the world into the ravages of a thermonuclear war. Then, man will suffer an irrecoverable wretched calamity. The United States and the South Korean authorities must contemplate over the grave consequences this reckless act will bring about and act with discretion. The Japanese reactionary class must correctly look at the trend of the times and must not commit a rash and thoughtless action.

If the U.S. imperialists and their following forces kindle the flames of a war on Korea to the very end, running counter to the trend of the times, our people and the People's Army will fight to the end for the party and the leader and for our socialist fatherland obtained through blood, to thoroughly annihilate and sweep away the aggressors and once again manifest the spirit of the heroic Korea. [applause]

Today's situation is presenting a very grave problem before our 70 million people of whether to open the road for the fatherland's reunification through great national unity, or become a victim of the big powers by carrying out hostility and confrontation between the fellow countrymen. Our nation must move toward the road of reunifying the fatherland through great national unity. Great national unity must be achieved to break the current deadlock, defend the nation's dignity and sovereign rights, and open the road for the fatherland's independent and peaceful reunification. All the fellow Korean countrymen of the North, South, and overseas must unite as one under the banner of the 10-point program of great national unity for the fatherland's reunification to carry out a nation-wide struggle. Therefore, we will realize the cause of the fatherland's reunification without fail. [applause]

Our people's struggle today is arduous, but it is an honorable and sacred struggle for the fatherland's prosperity and man's bright future. Voices of the world's revolutionary people supporting the socialist cause and our people's struggle for the fatherland's reunification are being raised with each passing day, and our revolution's international solidarity is being all the more strengthened. Amid the active support and encouragement of the world's progressive people, there is no power in this world that can obstruct our people's advance fighting for the just cause of the leadership of the great leader and the great party. We will also be always victorious. [applause]

Let us all single-heartedly unite around the party Central Committee accompanied by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song to all the more vigorously fight in realizing the cause of the fatherland's reunification and completing the chuche revolutionary cause. [applause]

Hurrah for Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people! [shouts of hurrahs and applause]

Hurrah for the glorious WPK, the organizer and leader [hyangdoja] of all victories of the Korean people! [shouts of hurrahs and applause]

Let there be victory and glory for the officers and men of the heroic KPA. [applause]

Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il Visit Army Unit 25 Apr

SK2504135494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], visited a KPA unit and congratulated officers and soldiers of the People's Army on the occasion of the 62d anniversary of the founding of the KPA.

Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, and Comrade Kim Chong-il, chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and supreme commander of the KPA, today visited the 564th Unit of the KPA on the occasion of the 62d anniversary of the founding of the heroic KPA, and congratulated officers and men of the People's Army. Soldiers of the unit enthusiastically welcomed the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, shouting thunderous cheers.

Bouquets containing the sense of boundless reverence of all officers and men of the People's Army were presented to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander, were greeted on the spot by Comrade O Chin-u, first vice chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and minister of People's Armed Forces; Comrade Choe Kwang, vice chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and chief of the General Staff of the KPA; Comrades Yi Ul-sol, (Kim Pong-yol), and Kim Kwang- chin, members of the DPRK National Defense Commission and vice marshals of the KPA; Comrades Choe In-tok, Paek Hak-nim, and Kim Ik- hyon, vice marshals of the KPA; Comrades Yi Ha-il, Kim Tu-nam, Yi Pong-won, and Kim Myong-kuk, generals of the KPA; and other KPA generals and Army unit commanders.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il warmly congratulated officers and men of the People's Army who are marking the 62d anniversary of the founding of the KPA, and comprehended the military life of the soldiers by meeting them.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il expressed great satisfaction for the fact that our People's Army, which achieved perfect harmony [honyon ilche] with the party and the leader, is excellently fulfilling its honorable mission and duties as a reliable defender of the chuche revolutionary cause—the socialist cause—and inspired and encouraged soldiers of the unit who are preparing themselves to be one-a-match-for-one-hundred guards.

Soldiers of the unit were filled with firm determination to tenaciously defend and protect the party's revolutionary cause with force of arms by further strengthening combat capabilities of the unit.

The great leader Comrade Kim il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander, posed for a picture with officers and men of the unit.

Choe In-tok Declares Army's Loyalty to Kim Chong-il

SK2304125094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Choe In-tok in an article contributed to MINJU CHOSON today declares that the loyalty of the People's Army to Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is characterized as the noblest and true loyalty which is spotlessly pure and clean, warm and intense and never change with the flow of time.

For the entire Army to be rifles and bombs defending comrade supreme commander is today the death-defying determination overflowing the People's Army and a slogan of faith and will upheld by the entire officers and men of the KPA, the article says, and goes on:

"When comrade supreme commander is determined, we can do anything!" A slogan of loyalty chanted by the whole Army today vividly proves how resolute and strong are the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality, and faith and will of the officers and men of the People's Army who are faithful to the idea and leadership of the great General Kim Chong-il.

The People's Army today has grown into ever-victorious revolutionary Armed Forces with the reliable commanding force capable of skillfully organizing any operation and battle and modern offensive and defensive means, taking the chuche-based idea of Army building as the only guideline, and all the soldiers are firmly prepared to be all-conquering combatants capable of successfully discharging their military duties under any circumstances, armed with the immortal chuche idea and tactics of our style.

Today the situation of our revolution is very strained and the challenge of the enemy is getting all the more wanton. But as there is the heroic People's Army, powerful ranks of loyalty, each man of which is a match for a hundred upholding the wise guidance of comrade supreme commander, any grim difficulties can never block our advance and even a large Army tens of millions strong cannot provoke us.

State Budget Increases Investment in Some Sectors

SK2304125194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Pyongyang, April 23 (KCNA)—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is giving definite precedence to the coal industry, the power industry and rail transport which must advance ahead of the other sectors of the national economy.

The state budget for this year envisages a rise of 3 percent above last year in the investments in these sectors.

In the coal industry, the coal mines will concentrate on securing more reserve coal deposits and cutting faces by accelerating tunnelling and pit construction and on modernizing coal-cutting equipment.

In the power industry, the construction of large hydroelectric power stations and thermal power plants currently under way will be accelerated vigorously and many more minor power stations be built in all parts of the country.

In rail transport, the existing rails will be replaced by heavy-duty rails at an accelerated pace on the trunk lines including the Pyongyang-Chongjin line, more sections be switched over to electric traction and the modernisation of transport means be hastened to increase the railway transport capacity.

The investment will be up in the metal industry 2.6 percent on last year and the production of irons and steels will be placed on a reinforced foundation.

Last year the investment in the preferential sectors of the national economy went up 3.5 percent above the preceding year to considerably increase the capacity of coal and ore production.

Power production and railway transport capacity has been largely boosted with efforts concentrated on the construction of power stations and the strengthening of the material and technological foundations of railways.

Japanese Program Examines Situation in DPRK

OW2204112494

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 1230 GMT on 21 April, in its "Modern Closeup" program, carries a 30-minute video report from the NHK studio in Tokyo by NHK International News Department Correspondent Toshiro Kishi and NHK newscaster Hiroko Kuniya on Kishi's visit to North Korea to cover the celebration marking the 82d birthday of North Korean President Kim Il-song as well as the situation in North Korea.

Explaining how a group of NHK correspondents obtained visas from North Korea to cover the celebration, Kishi states: "Months after applying for them, North Korea issued our visas on 14 April, just a day prior to the celebration. I heard that North Korea issued our visas after long hesitation and much agony." Discussing the stay of the NHK correspondent in Pyongyang, Kishi said: "Our news coverage was severely restricted."

After a video showing citizens, streets, and cars in Pyongyang, Kishi continues: "Despite the reported oil shortages in that country, the number of trucks and automobiles in Pyongyang has grown since 1992, when I last visited the city." The video shows a folk dance staged in Kim Il-song Plaza on the evening of 15 April, with Kishi saying: "Most of North Korea's wealth is concentrated in Pyongyang. Many foreigners frequently visit the capital. Therefore, it is mistaken to assess all of North Korea based only on Pyongyang."

Discussing the food situation in North Korea, Kishi states: "I found no food shortages during my brief stay in Pyongyang."

Noting a visit by NHK correspondents to the border town of Panmumjom, Kishi adds: "On my way to Panmunjom I saw some factories emitting smoke, despite reports that many local factories in North Korea remain idle due to a lack of energy." The video shows a village near Panmumjom, then cuts to Kishi interviewing North Korean Major General Yi Chan-nam of the Military Armistice Commission. In the interview, Yi says: "Our nation is in the highest state of tension." Asked why North Korea is in such a situation, Yi states: "America is deploying Patriot missiles to South Korea, and are saying they will resume the Team Spirit exercises."

Discussing his impressions of Pyongyang, Kishi says: "I found no evidence during my stay in Pyongyang that North Korea was in a war atmosphere or on the verge of economic collapse as reported by the Western news media. I felt that the citizens in Pyongyang appeared more economically well off than when I visited two years ago." Kishi notes: "North Korea issued visas for us with the aim of showing the world that North Korea wants peace, not war, and that North Korea is seriously seeking to settle the nuclear issue." After Kuniya briefly explains how North Korea has been trying to resolve the nuclear issue, the video shows Kim Il-song meeting with foreign correspondents and an interview with North Korean Major General Kim Yong-chol. Following a lengthy video report on how the United States and South Korea are going to deal with North Korea's suspected development of nuclear weapons, Kishi and Kuniya conclude the program.

South Korea

Kang Sok-chu on DPRK-U.S. Working Contact

SK2304090794 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Text] In a letter sent to Robert Gallucci, U.S. assistant secretary of State, Kang Sok-chu, North Korean vice foreign minister, proposed a working-level contact to prepare for the third round of North Korean-U.S. high-level talks. This was revealed by a relevant government official on 22 April.

On 22 April, the government official said that "Vice Minister Kang sent a letter to Assistant Secretary Gallucci on 19 April and revealed the willingness to allow the presence of an inspection team from the International Atomic Energy Agency when nuclear fuel rods are replaced at a five-megawatt nuclear reactor in Yongbyon, and proposed holding a working-level contact." The government official then added that "the working-level contact is expected to be held during next week."

'Full-Scale' U.S.-DPRK Contact Resumes

SK2404010894 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 24 April 94

[Text] The United States and North Korea have resumed a full-scale contact and have begun to iron out their differences of opinion.

In a response to a message sent by Kang Sok-chu, North Korean vice foreign minister and chief of North Korean delegates to U.S.-North Korean talks on 19 April, it was learned in the United States that U.S. delegation head Galluci delivered a reply to the North side last week.

The two sides exchanged basic proposals regarding the mutual practice of additional inspections and high-level U.S.-North Korean talks. It was learned that the two sides will begin full-scale working negotiations to reach an agreement on these items within this week.

A well-informed source on the nuclear issue said that North Korea withdrew its previous stance stating it has kept all the agreements reached with the United States by disclosing that it was compelled to break the agreement last month because of a precondition that the special envoys of the North and South should be exchanged. The source said that this hints at a positive change in the North Korean stance.

It was also learned that the United States, through Gallucci's reply, informed the DPRK of its stance over the suspension of Team Spirit and high-level U.S.-North Korean talks.

DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Invited to Moscow

SK2404021994 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 24 April 94 p 2

[YONHAP from Moscow]

[Text] A high-level Russian Foreign Ministry official disclosed on 22 April that Russia is exercising its influence on North Korea over the suspicion of the nuclear development through all possible political means. He added that as a part of its efforts, Russia invited a North Korean vice foreign minister to visit Moscow in the early summer.

Official on Soviet-DPRK Pact Interpretations

SK2304003494 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[YONHAP report from Moscow]

[Text] Russia is not obligated to promptly assist North Korea pursuant to its treaty of military alliance with North Korea even if a military dispute occurs on the Korean peninsula, a senior Russian Government official said.

Valentin Moiseyev, chief of the Korean division of the Foreign Ministry's First Asian Department, interviewed by ITAR-TASS today, said this adding that Russia has already modified the interpretation of the clause on automatic military intervention, which is the key clause of the DPRK-Soviet Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance signed in 1961.

He explained that Russia conveyed its position on the modification of the automatic military intervention clause to Pyongyang about a year ago through a diplomatic channel.

Moiseyev noted that although Russia, which succeeded the Soviet Union, admits that the treaty is still valid, a different interpretation has to be made as to the automatic military intervention clause under the present circumstances.

DPRK's Military Capabilities Analyzed

SK2304055594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0519 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—North Korea celebrates the 62nd anniversary of the founding of its armed forces on Monday, April 25.

The reclusive communist state founded the regular "Korean People's Army" on Feb. 8, 1948, and formerly observed this date as Armed Forces Day until 1978, when it opted for April 25 on the ground that it was on April 25, 1932, that Kim Il-song organized and became the first commander of the irregular "Korean People's Revolutionary Army."

The change was intended to date the origin of the regular Korean People's Army back to the irregular guerrillas during the days of Japanese rule, which has a great bearing on North Korea's military strategy today.

By ascribing the regular army to the irregular troops that waged guerrilla warfare against Japan in the 1930s, North Korea attaches importance to the art of unconventional warfare in its military strategy. This strategy calls for forming a second front in the rear area of South Korea by infiltrating guerrilla troops for a mix of regular and irregular warfare to turn the whole of South Korea into a huge battleground.

North Korea's Armed Forces should thus be viewed as an important instrument of its strategy to communize

South Korea by force for eventual reunification, analysts say. The strategy's objective is communist reunification of Korea, and to achieve this aim North Korea is pursuing "the four great military lines" while strengthening "the three great revolutionary capabilities." The four great military lines are guidelines of action for the military based on the chuche (self-reliance) ideology.

North Korea has developed its military strategy with a mix of the Chinese people's warfare strategy, the former Soviet Union's modern warfare strategy and the lessons of the Korean, Vietnamese and Persian Gulf conflicts. Based on the concept of offensive war, the strategy calls for sweeping the whole of South Korea in a blitzkrieg action or invading the Seoul area in a limited but lightning-quick war.

For this purpose, North Korea maintains mechanized and mobile troops, as well as special troops [to] infiltrate South Korea's rear area. It has also dug tunnels across the Demilitarized Zone as infiltration avenues.

North Korea's defense structure is patterned after those of the former Soviet Union and China, and the Ministry of Armed Forces is not a part of the Administrative Council (cabinet) but under the direct control of the Workers' (communist) Party Central Military Commission and the National Defense Committee—unlike cabinet ministries. And the chief of General Staff is directly responsible to the Armed Forces minister and controls the three branches of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Kim Chong-il, son and heir-apparent of President Kim Il-song, became the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army in February 1991, a marshal in April 1992 and chairman of the National Defense Committee in April 1993, taking a firm grip on the Armed Forces. The Army has 16 corps, in addition to tank and special force commands.

According to NAEWOE press, the official North Korea watcher here, the North Korean Army has 3,700 tanks, 2,500 armored personnel carriers and 9,800 artillery pieces, in addition to 12,000 anti-aircraft guns.

Batteries of 240mm multiple rocket-launching systems are intensively deployed along the Western part of the front line. Each of these systems can launch 24 rounds of ammunition at a target as far as 24 kilometers, and Patriot missiles are reportedly not effective against this rapid-fire artillery.

North Korea's missile capabilities include AT-3/4 anti-tank missiles and improved scud missiles.

The special troops of North Korea number 100,000, including 20,000 paratroopers and special marines.

The North Korean Navy has some 700 ships, including 26 submarines. It recently began improving its fleet of submarines, missile ships and torpedo boats.

The North Korean Air Force boasts 1,600 aircraft, including 60 MiG-23 and MiG-29 fighters.

North Korea's nuclear capability includes a 4,000-kw experimental reactor imported from the former Soviet Union in 1965, a 3,000-kw reactor completed recently and a 200,000-kw reactor under construction.

In the 1960s, Pyongyang began developing its chemical and biological warfare capabilities. Today, it is known to have gas and germ weapons. North Korea has also developed a device capable of delivering these horrible weapons to targets in South Korea.

North Korea is said to be capable of producing 100 improved Scud-B missiles with a range of 500 kilometers annually for export to Iran and other countries. Now, it is reportedly developing a new model with a range of 1,000 kilometers, known as the Nodong-1.

Noteworthy is that North Korea deploys 65 percent of its ground forces, 60 percent of its ships and 40 percent of its Air Force below the line drawn between Pyongyang and Wonsan, a position close enough to the Demilitarized Zone for the North Koreans to launch a blitzkieg on South Korea whenever they want.

Major Units Ordered 'To Stay on Full Alert'

SK2304054994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry instructed commanders of major military units Saturday to stay on full alert for North Korean troop movements.

Over 50 commanding officers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Joint Chiefs of Staff attended a meeting at the ministry held to analyze the latest developments in the North Korean nuclear impasse and Pyongyang's military movements.

The meeting, presided over by Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae, concluded that North Korea has not showed any signs of forward movement but that the North's conventional troops still pose a threat of attack.

The commanders also decided that North Korea is unlikely to abandon its nuclear program despite South Korean-U.S. efforts at dialogue, leaving the issue clouded by uncertainty.

North Korean aggression cannot be ruled out if the matter is referred to the UN Security Council for sanctions, they said.

Yi instructed the military to support the government's policy on resolving the nuclear crisis through dialogue, while remaining on full alert to deter any attack and maintaining an early warning system in cooperation with the United States.

Yi asked the armed forces to prepare for the South Korean-U.S. joint military exercise "Team Spirit," scheduled to open in November unless the nuclear problem is sufficiently defused.

No U.S. Response on MOU Difference of Opinion

SK2304075894 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 23 April 94 p 2

[YONHAP from Washington]

[Text] The ROK and U.S. Governments are having a difference of opinion over the export of the ROK defense industry, said officials of the two countries on 21 April.

According to ROK and U.S. sources, the ROK Government, via a diplomatic channel, has officially asked the United States to approve of the ROK's sale of military equipment to other countries, However, the United States has showed no reaction so far.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] on the defense industry signed between the two governments, in principle, the ROK has to have U.S. approval in order to sell military equipment manufactured with U.S. technology to a third country.

Pointing out that the details of the MOU were eased in 1982 and 1989 to pave the way for the ROK to more readily export military equipment, the sources said that the recent official request was based on this adjustment.

The U.S. Government was originally scheduled to respond to the ROK Government's request on sales in some 15 fields, including artillery of various types and armored personnel carriers, to Southeast Asia and Latin America by last February, but has yet failed to respond, added the sources.

Ministry Denies Plans To Purchase U.S. Weapons

SK2304082994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0817 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry has denied as "unfounded" the foreign press report that South Korea had decided to purchase a large amount of American-made sophisticated weapons.

A Ministry official said on Friday that there were no talks at all on the possible purchase of Apache helicopters, Patriot missiles and other high-tech weapons from the United States during the recent visit to Seoul by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL of the United States reported that during Perry's visit to Seoul, South Korea agreed to buy a host of American-made high-tech weapons.

"Apart from Perry's visit, we had partially modified the Yulgok arms procurement program in a way that places a more emphasis on building up our anti-artillery and night-time battle ability," the official said.

Releases Official View on Issue

SK2304095794 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0838 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The Defense Ministry has denied reports by domestic papers on 22 April citing a foreign press report that discussions on the purchase of weapons were held during the recent talks between the ROK and U.S. defense ministers and has released its official view.

After Cho Song-tae, director of the Policy Planning Division of the Ministry, explained the truth regarding the report on the purchase of weapons, the Defense Ministry distributed to the press an official written explanation expressing its position and asked the press to support the present ROK-U.S. cooperative system, stressing the importance of the system.

The Defense Ministry made it clear that both countries' ministers did not discuss the purchase of Apache helicopters, Patriot missiles, and other latest U.S. weapons during their recent talks.

The Ministry reported: In an effort to improve its capability to cope with an unexpected situation in connection with the North Korean nuclear issue, our military has partially modified the arms procurement program in the Yulgok Five-Year Plan to adjust the timing for the purchase of weapons, placing more emphasis on building up our antiartillery and night battle ability. However, this has no relation to the recent ROK-U.S. talks.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae explained the result of the recent talks to reporters in the press room of the Defense Ministry and said that there was no discussion on the purchase of weapons at the 20 April talks.

Prior to this, in a news conference with domestic and foreign reporters at the Shilla Hotel on 21 April, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry also said that he and Minister Yi did not discuss selling U.S. weapons to the ROK.

Daily: U.S. Decides To Stop Buying Patriots

SK2404060194 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 24 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by correspondent Chong Yon-chu from Washington]

[Text] Almost at the same time that the United States deployed Patriot missiles to the ROK, the U.S. Defense Department made a final decision on 21 April to purchase the great-sphere interceptor missile system (Erint), rather than the Patriot missiles, as its missile weapon system for defense. This was notified to Congress.

Since the U.S. Defense Department is the main customer for weapons, this decision implies that the Defense Department does not plan to purchase Patriot missiles.

This is being considered as a true death sentence for the Patriot missiles. Raytheon, the company that produces Patriot missiles, is faced with a difficult situation because of such a decision. It is expected that this company will actively increase its activities to promote overseas sales of Patriot missiles.

Before making a final decision on 21 April, the U.S. Defense Department had decided in February to purchase the (Erint) missile system rather than the Patriot missiles. However at that time, senators and congressmen from Massachusetts, where the Raytheon company is located, demanded an objective basis for the Defense Department's choice. Therefore, the Defense Department formed an independent team to continue to research on this matter.

This research team concluded that the (Erint) missile is more effective and has a greater impact than the Patriot missiles in intercepting ballistic missiles loaded with chemical and nuclear weapons. John Deutch, under secretary of defense, revealed: "In accordance with the result of the analysis made by the research team and the operational demands, the Defense Department concluded that the (Erint) is the best choice."

The Patriot missile which was treated like a "hero" during the Gulf war received various criticisms on its performance after the war. Thus, its myth was dispelled. Moshe Arens, Israeli defense minister during the Gulf war said: "The rate of hits was only 20 percent." The Massachusetts Institute of Technology research team harshly criticized the Patriots by saying: "The Patriot missile played almost no role at all during the Gulf war."

DPRK Reportedly Developing New Missile

SK2404042094 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 24 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by correspondent Yi Chang-min from Tokyo]

[Text] Quoting the U.S. military and aviation journal AIR SPACE DAILY, in a report dispatched from Washington, Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN reported on 23 April that soon after developing the Nodong No. 1 missile, North Korea is developing a new missile which has a range of up to 6,000 km.

According to SANKEI SHIMBUN, there are two types of the new missile. This was discovered in February at the North Korean Sannudong Research Development Institute through the U.S. reconnaissance satellite. Each type consists of two-stage rockets [kakkak idanisikuro toeoitta].

The U.S. intelligence authorities stated that the new missile is named Taepodong-1 and Taepodong-2. They estimate that the first stage is 18 m long and its diameter is 2.4 m, and the second stage is 14 m long and its diameter is 1.3 m.

SANKEI SHIMBUN reported: "If the range is 6,000 km, Guam as well as all of Japan, including Okinawa, can be a target. AIR SPACE DAILY reported that if North Korea is successful in developing this missile, it will emerge as a big military power in the East Asian region."

SANKEI SHIMBUN also reported: "Great Britain's military journal, JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY, reported that the missile North Korea is developing has a range of over 2,000 km. However, this is the first time it is revealed that its range is in fact 6,000 km. If North Korea completes the development of this missile, the entire East Asian region would be greatly threatened."

DPRK-Europe Economic Contacts 'Become Brisk'

SK2504022194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0212 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—Contacts between North Korea and European banks and businesses have become brisk with inter-Korean consultations almost suspended, relevant authorities and business sources here said Monday.

A few European banks, including ING (Internationale Netherlanden Bank M.V.) of the Netherlands, are consulting with North Korea on establishing offices in Pyongyang and U.S. multinational corporations such as McKinsey Inc. and IBM Corp. are trying to advance into the communist state, the sources said.

North Korean imports of machinery and social infrastructure goods, including telecommunications equipment from Europe, have risen sharply from last year, according to the sources. In contrast, South-North economic cooperation has made no headway since last year as the nuclear dispute has chilled inter-Korean relations.

North Korea's efforts to get closer to European banks and U.S. multinational corporations are designed to revitalize its economy by inducing investment and obtaining loans from foreign banks and businesses. For example, a North Korean economic mission toured European nations including Britain, Germany and Austria late last year to hold seminars aimed at attracting investment to the Najin-Sonbong special economic zone. Thanks to such efforts, foreign banks have begun paying more attention to North Korea.

ING bank is seeking to establish a liaison office in Pyongyang—a first for Western banks—while Australia and New Zealand (ANZ) bank is pushing for a Pyongyang office to secure a bridgehead there.

Banks from Britain, Germany and Switzerland are also consulting with North Korea, according to the sources.

McKinsey Inc. of the United States has contacted North Korea through its firms in South Korea, Japan and Europe, and IBM's British subsidiary sent staff to the isolated state last summer to provide technical training.

Thailand dispatched a large-scale economic mission to North Korea recently to discuss a 50-year lease at Najin port and to secure real estate within the Najin-Sonbong special economic zone.

Trade Ministry Opposes Bid To Join NAFTA

SK2404023794 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Apr 94 p 8

[By staff reporter Chae Hui-muk]

[Text] The Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry has opposed the Foreign Ministry bid to join the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was put into force in January this year by the United States, Canada and Mexico. The trade ministry has claimed that Korea would suffer more loss than benefit from its entry into the trade bloc in an analysis on strategies of world trading blocs.

The ministry pinpointed four positive aspects if Korea joined the tripartite agreement but feared greater loss.

First of all, the entry would promote competition among businesses as it is expected to accelerate the speed of market opening and internationalization of domestic companies, the analysis said.

It forecast that exports to North America would increase as a result of the scrapping or reduction of tariffs and U.S. companies would be promoted to increase investments and technology transfer to Korea.

Domestic manufacturers could also expect to increase exports of raw materials and parts, which are strictly applied to "origin of country" regulations, to the three nations, according to the ministry.

On the other hand, negative effects would be more serious in the financial and foreign exchange industry, intellectual property rights protection, the farm market, labor and environmental sector.

The ministry said that U.S. tariff rates will be cut to 4 percent non average in four years due to the Uruguay Round [UR] accord from current 6.2 percent. As a result, the merit from tariff cut will be meager, it said.

It noted that several items, including garments and musical instruments, would benefit from the entry as they are competitive in the United States as U.S. duties will be zero to bloc members in 10 years.

But the ministry analyzed that sluggish export to the United States has not resulted from high tariff rates but has derived from weakened competitiveness.

The domestic agricultural market would be harder hit from the entry into NAFTA than from the Uruguay Round accord as the United States is expected to push ahead with the export of rice, beef, orange juice and dairy products to Korea. Now a third of Korea's farm imports comes from the three North American nations.

Textile exports will grow sharply even if Korea gains NAFTA membership as trade of textile products subject to the multilateral fiber agreement (MFA) is to be liberalized in accordance with the UR accord.

Exports of electronics goods and automobiles are expected to increase as the country of origin regulations will not be strictly applied to member nations.

Korea will be obligated to open 77 services markets to U.S. firms completely. Financial, telecommunications and transportation markets are likely to become the ground of U.S. companies in case Korea joins the NAFTA, the ministry said.

U.S. high-tech firms in telecommunications equipment, medium- and large-sized computers, power generation and the environment are expected to make inroads into Korea's government procurement sector.

Korea will also have to remove restrictions on market access, foreign exchange dealings and investment.

The United States is certain to mount pressure to protect its intellectual property rights through monitoring activities of a committee set up under the NAFTA pact.

The analysis also pointed out that U.S. manufacturing companies would not be attracted here than expected as production costs are higher than those in Mexico and other Latin American nations in a move to join the body. [sentence as published]

Based on the analysis, the trade ministry is very cautious about its entry into the NAFTA, saying that comprehensive measures would have to be drawn up such as formation of a special partnership to NAFTA and consolidation of cooperation with the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

But Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu insisted on two occasions early this year that Korea should tie up with NAFTA to avoid possible isolation from NAFTA and Southeast Asian economic blocs.

At the foreign ministers talks, Han called on his Canadian counterpart to help Korea join the NAFTA in February. Mexico and Canada have expressed welcome to NAFTA.

PRC Provinces Agree To Buy More ROK Goods

SK2504014394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0132 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—The South Korean and Chinese trade ministers agreed Monday that Chinese provincial governments should use more Korean steel, chemicals, foodstuffs and machinery.

The agreement came as Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Kim Chol-su met with visiting Chinese Minister of Internal Trade Zhang Haoruo for talks on promoting bilateral economic links.

Officials said Kim asked Zhang to open the Chinese market to official auto imports from South Korea. He also requested China's active interest in allowing South Korea's corporate entry into the distribution market since it is linked with bilateral trade expansion, officials said.

Zhang, in response, said South Korean companies should invest mainly in improving and building China's distribution network including warehouses and marine transport centers.

The two trade ministers decided that Seoul would send a government-private study team to China around June or July to look into the distribution market.

They agreed that their governments would fully support the planned construction of the Korea business center in Beijing and an oil refinery that South Korea's Yukong hopes to build in Liangchuan.

Outgoing Prime Minister Comments on Departure

SK2304053694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0501 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—Outgoing Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang expressed hope Saturday that the government's reform policy will succeed.

"Otherwise, it will be a big national misfortune. I pray for the success of the reform policy," he said.

Yi handed in his resignation Friday to President Kim Yong-sam after expressing discontent over the administration's decision-making process on national security and unification matters.

He told journalists that he had resigned of his own free will, denying rumors that the president told him to step down.

"A resignation can be expressed verbally, but I wanted to make my intentions clear so I followed the formal procedure."

Yi said he had once talked about quitting when the dismissal of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries minister was discussed in connection with the Uruguay Round negotiations, because he felt responsibile for not having asked the minister to brief him on the UR [Uruguay Round] negotiations.

"But the president stopped me from resigning," the former judge and chairman of the Board of Audit and Inspection said.

"I feel regret that I could not carry out goverment policies in a composed and full-fledged manner while spending too much time and effort on coping with various sudden issues including water pollution."

Yi added that he has no intention of serving in any other public posts.

Reaction to Prime Minister Resignation Continues

More on Reasons for 'Dismissal'

SK2304031694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam almost suffered a heart attack when he saw the early editions of Friday morning's newspapers and felt another palpitation while watching the evening news on Thursday. He immediately ordered Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang to toe the line. This is what led to Yi's dismissal.

Local newspapers and TV news all reported Yi's remarks, made through his secretary, pointing out the operational and technical problems of the Unification-security Policy Coordination Committee. President Kim had personally formed the committee to erase any images of dissent within the government on unification and security. But his prime minister, supposedly the No. 2 man, challenged the president by pointing out problems with the committee.

How could a prime minister dare announce such opinions through a secretary, couldn't you wait until our regular meeting tomorrow, what did you hope to gain by having your words carried in the newspapers?, Kim probably yelled at Yi over the telephone.

Such anger revived the president's memory: The violence at the Chogye temple broke out while I was away: I had to order a thorough investigation because the prime minister failed to take charge, Kim most likely muttered to himself.

Kim's ire apparently hadn't died out Friday afternoon when the two men sat down for their regular briefing session. But instead of apologizing, the prime minister only said he had acted on behalf of the country and the president, behavior deemed consistent for a former judge nicknamed "Bamboo" for his strict adherence to the law.

So, if we follow the law as you say, who should be responsible in case of a power vacuum? Isn't it the prime minister?, Kim probably said, clearly indicating that he planned to fire Yi. Yi got the message and handed in his resignation as soon as he returned to his office.

Kim's aide said the president was surprised when Yi walked into his office Friday afternoon without a letter of resignation after what happened the previous evening. Although the move was certainly unexpected to many, insiders had actually been predicting it for a long time.

Yi, they say, put the brakes on many of the orders that came from the presidential office. For instance, Kim said dismissing his Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kim Yang-bae was inevitable because he revised South Korea's Uruguay Round country schedule despite promising the president he wouldn't.

The prime minister challenged this thinking, insisting that the country schedule was not revised in any way but only "appeared" to have been changed. Yi asked the other cabinet ministers to emulate him and pay less attention to the presidential office, telling them he would take the responsibility when meeting with the press.

On some occasions, he bluntly told Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong not to meddle and issue orders to the cabinet, they say. Yi may wish to call it a resignation, but considering the prior series of events, "fired" is the correct term.

Dailies Discuss Resignation

SK2304084694

[Editorial Report] Local vernacular dailies on 23 April carry editorials and articles on the resignation of Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang on 22 April, one day after he lashed out at the decision-making process of the Kim Yong-sam administration by requesting, during a meeting with his senior aides on 21 April, that every decision of the administration go through prior discussions by the cabinet.

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries on page 2 a 1,100-word article by reporter Choe Yong-muk entitled "Why Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang Resigned." The article describes the prime minister's resignation as "shocking," and notes, "It seems that Prime Minister Yi had complained about President Kim's mode of managing state affairs and his reform style." The article then cites recent episodes that apparently angered the prime minister—the presidential office's habit of belittling and sidelining the prime minister's office, such as the instance when the prime minister strongly objected to the Presidential Office directive on the contents of the prime minister's statement of apology to the people in connection with the government's handling of the Uruguay Round; the lukewarm investigation of the Samgmudae financial scandal; and above all, the manner in which the prime minister was sidelined by not being included in the Unification and Security Policy Coordinating Meeting. The article concludes, "The prime minister must have thought since his proposals were flatly ignored, this meant that President Kim would not fully recognize the cabinet and instead wanted a 'quasi-prime minister,' and this was something the prime minister could never accept."

The conservative CHOSON ILBO carries on page 2 a 1,100-word article by reporter Kim Chang-ki entitled "Upright Prime Minister Resigns in Four Months—Background and Prospects for Future Political Scene." The editorial notes that the prime minister's sudden resignation on 22 April has driven the entire political situation on alert and says, "The resignation of a prime minister in this manner is very unusual and thrusts the Kim Yong-sam government into suddenly having to confront a surging wave of problems. In particular, since the Kim Yong-sam government that was launched under the signboard of reform selected Prime Minister Yi, the virtual star of reforms and the standard-bearer of audits and inspections, his resignation must come as a serious blow and burden to the Kim Yong-sam government. This must compel President Kim to modify his style of managing state affairs and to reconsider his policy options."

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "The Prime Minister's Sudden Resignation." The editorial begins, "The prime minister's sudden resignation is very shocking. It is far from an ordinary development because Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang has resigned within four months of his assumption of office and because his resignation resulted from his complaint about the government's management of state affairs." The editorial then notes, "Whatever the background and reason for his resignation may be, the prime minister's resignation is causing considerable damage to President Kim Yong-sam's personnel policy. President Kim Yong-sam must have been aware of Mr. Yi Hoe-chang's strong convictions and upright character when choosing him." The editorial concludes, "Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang's resignation brings up the old issue in which the prime minister is put in a difficult position regarding his role and maneuverability under a president-centered form of government. Nevertheless, the prime minister's control over the cabinet and his policy coordinating role should be enhanced. For this, the prime minister's authority should be respected."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Former Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang's Convictions." The editorial begins, "It is a shocking development that Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, who is noted for his uncompromising convictions, should have suddenly resigned on 22 April." The editorial notes Prime Minister Yi's strong complaint about the way the Unification and Security Policy Coordinating Committee was run and his resolve to restore the authority and function of the prime minister and the cabinet, which the presidential office regard as a challenge to the presidential office." The editorial then notes that the people were glad to see a prime minister of conviction who differed from previous rubber-stamping prime ministers who are referred to as "prime ministers who only read what someone else has written for them" and "powerless madams," but that he had to leave office before being able to put his convictions into practice. The editorial asserts that his resignation will provide a fresh jolt to the world where many are changing their convictions to hold on to their posts."

The pro-government SEOUL SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "The Sudden Replacement of the Prime Minister." The editorial begins: "The sudden reprimand to and replacement of Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang and the ensuing sudden appointment of Yi Yong-tok, the acting prime minister, is an unusual development that shocks and perplexes the people. It is certainly unfortunate that the president should have reprimanded the prime minister for his irregular words and actions and fired him. Nevertheless, we positively evaluate the president's swift action in appointing a replacement to launch a new cabinet instead of concealing the problem, which is an expression of an active will to turn the misfortune to an advantage." The editorial notes the need for the government to establish order and discipline, and rebukes Prime Minister Yi for his unprudent words and actions openly revealing his complaint about the operation of the Unification and Security Policy Coordinating Committee. The editorial concludes: "Prime Minister Yi's resignation should not be construed as a deterioration of reform. We must support the president's resolve in executing state affairs productively and efficiently in harmony and team work to fully utilize the advantage of the year without elections."

The left-leaning HANGYORE SINMUN carries on page 3 a 900-word editorial entitled "Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang's Sudden Resignation—the Retreat of a 'Law-Upholding Man' Could Mean a Return to Conservatism."

The editorial begins: "Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang's sudden resignation is an incident of grave importance leading the people into uneasy worries, not to mention the fact that it will deal the Kim Yong-sam regime a political blow." The editorial notes: "Prime Minister Yi had an upright character and held convictions upholding the law, commanding high popularity with the people. The people expected that he would excellently carry out his role as a coordinator in the government to augment the clumsy execution of power of the civilian government." The editorial continues: "It is quite natural that we should be led to suspect that the prime minister's sudden resignation may reflect the problems in President Kim's ruling style and his mode of executing state affairs. Therefore, his resignation could lead the people to suspect that the government is abandoning the law-abiding ethos and returning to the old practice of looking for expediency in violation of the law, thus damaging the civilian government's resolve for reform and political morality."

The independent moderate MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN carries on page 2 a 1,500-word article entitled "The Greatest Political Crisis—Striving To Find a Way Out." The article begins: "Political circles regard the contingency created by the resignation of the prime minister unprecedented in the constitutional history as the greatest political crisis facing the Kim Yong-sam government, and are striving to find a way out of this crisis." The article notes a comment by an unidentified senior official of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party that 'The sudden resignation of the prime minister could kindle a fire to the disharmony lurking within the ruling camp. The opposition parties and other forces critical of the government will initiate a political offensive, which could lead to the discussion of an overall realignment of political circles.'" The article then notes the comment by the opposition Democratic Party that 'Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang's sudden resignation well reveals President Kim Yong-sam's weak personnel policy.'"

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Replacement of the Prime Minister in Four Months." The editorial begins: "It is regrettable that Mr. Yi Hoe-chang resigned as prime minister in only four months since he assumed office. Different from the former prime ministers who were described as a 'powerless madame' and a 'prime minister who only read what someone else wrote for him,' he played a central role in the cabinet with his convictions and demonstrated his competence and reasonableness in coping with various difficult pending issues of the country." The editorial continues: "We think it is a troublesome development that the replacement of the prime minister was made very abruptly and that Prime Minister Yi resigned because of the difference of his view from that of the presidential office over the policy-making process. Yi Hoe-chang's resignation means not only replacing the prime minister himself, but the resignation of all the cabinet members he recommended and the formation of a new cabinet, which is an enormous state event. The abrupt action of this magnitude not only shocks the entire society, but is undesirable for the stable operation of state affairs." The editorial concludes: "The uproarious replacement of the prime minister has to be a political blow to President Kim. President Kim, who professed personnel action to be a matter of foremost importance, appointed a new prime minister for the third time in one year and two months and is to reshuffle the cabinet in four months. This must burden him. We urge the government to reestablish as soon as possible the posture for stable execution of state affairs."

DLP Opposes Yi Yong-tok Approval

SK2304000294 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] A dispute over the National Assembly's approval of the appointment of the acting prime minister is expected between the ruling and opposition parties.

The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] will hold a high-ranking post-holders meeting today to confirm the position that the president's decision to accept the resignation of Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang has no legal or political flaw as it was an exercise of the president's own sovereign power.

The DLP is expected to confirm the determination to consolidate the party's power to achieve the national goal of strengthening the country's competitiveness under closer party cooperation after the appointment of the new prime minister.

The Democratic Party [DP] will hold an emergency executives' meeting today to demand that the prime minister's rights be stipulated in the Constitution and finalize its position to oppose the approval of the appointment of new acting Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok by the National Assembly.

Fierce dispute between the ruling and opposition party is expected over the approval of the prime minister's appointment and over the National Assembly's investigation on the Sangmudae political fund case.

Yi's 'Poor Performance' Cited

SK2304053994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0524 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)— The main opposition Democratic Party (DP) decided Saturday to resist Unification Minister Yi Yong-tok's appointment as prime minister at a National Assembly session to approve the premier-designate, a DP leader said.

Emerging from a meeting of senior party lawmakers, Acting Chairman Kim Won-ki also told reporters that the DP would call for the entire cabinet's resignation.

"The Constitution requires that the cabinet be appointed through the recommendation of the prime minister. Moreover, the resignation of Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, according to the announcement of Chongwadae [presidential office], is something like reprehension. So the cabinet must resign en masse in consideration of the spirit of the Constitution and the mistakes made by the incumbent cabinet," said Kim.

The major opposition party also decided to take issue with the constitutional, political and even moral procedures of Yi's resignation before dealing with the approval of the new prime minister at the National Assembly.

According to Kim, the DP will demand that the National Assembly convene a separate, full assembly session to discuss Lee's resignation. The demand will be made during Monday's National Assembly meeting, called to handle the Sangmudae scandal involving suspected bribery in the relocation of military facilities in Kwangju, the southwestern provincial capital.

Kim also cited the poor performance of Prime Minister-Designate Yi while serving as unification minister as the party's reason for opposing his appointment.

DP Chairman Yi Ki-taek, now on a U.S. tour, will return to Seoul Monday to tackle the volatile domestic political situation, Kim said.

Observers Speculate on Upcoming Cabinet Reshuffle

SK2304021694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0158 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—Following the abrupt resignation of Yi Hoe-chang as prime minister Friday afternoon, public attention shifted Saturday to the timing and scope of the inevitable cabinet reshuffle that is expected within a few days. Stunned by the unexpected end of the Yi Hoe-chang cabinet after only 128 days, top government and ruling party officials awaited follow-up measures by President Kim Yong-sam.

Kim has already designated deputy prime minister and head of the National Unification Board (NUB) Yi Yong-tok as his new prime minister after accepting Yi Hoe-chang's resignation. The president must now fill the NUB post and possibly reshuffle a number of cabinet ministers.

Keen public interest is focusing on who will replace Yi Yong-tok at the NUB. The first name mentioned by many analysts is Chief Presidential Secretary Pak Kwan-yong, who is widely recognized as an expert on North Korean affairs. In addition to this expertise, Pak is a good bet for the deputy premiership given his stature at Chongwadae [presidential office] and within the ruling circle.

A spate of misjudgements, confusion and questionable decisions has plagued diplomatic and national security policy since the inauguration of the Kim administration in February last year. Pak is among the very few deemed able to straighten out the situation as he has stayed close to Kim Yong-sam over the past 14 months. He has not only assisted the president on unification and other inter-Korean problems but also served as "a bridge" among the various ministries.

In this regard, Pak is highly qualified for the job of deputy premier and head of the National Unification Board, some senior officials at the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] believe. Others in the DLP, however, say that the current situation was created by the prime minister's resignation alone, and therefore replacing Yi Hoe-chang should be enough. The president should not change his chief secretary, they add.

Along with Pak Kwan-yong's immediate future, attention is also centering on the scope and timing of the cabinet reshuffle. A lot depends on whether Pak remains at Chongwadae, however. If the chief presidential secretary stays on, many observers believe that two or three ministers, including the deputy premier, will be changed.

Speculation has it that Labor Minister Nam Chae-hui could take over the NUB portfolio. In that event, there is a slight chance that Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and the senior presidential secretary for foreign and national security affairs, Chong Chae-uk, who have both contributed to confusion in the government's foreign and North Korea policy, could be replaced.

One senior ruling party official pointed out that since the current cabinet was formed only five months ago, the president will probably just patch it up a bit. If Yi Yong-tok is quickly approved as prime minister by the National Assembly on Monday, Kim is expected to present his credentials on the same day and go right to work on a limited cabinet shake-up, he said. But since the Democratic Party has already said it will resist Yi Yong-tok's appointment, it is difficult to speculate what kind of "card" President Kim might use to overcome such opposition, sources say. If parliamentary approval of the new prime minister is delayed, the scope of the cabinet reshuffle will likely increase, they said.

Yi Ki-taek Demands Cabinet Resign

SK2304001394 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[By Washington-based correspondent Chong Un-chan]

[Text] Democratic Party Chairman Yi Ki-taek, who is visiting the United States, held an emergency news conference in Washington on 22 April regarding the resignation of Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang. He demanded the resignation of the entire cabinet and decided to return home the day after tomorrow [25 April]. He was originally scheduled to return on 2 May.

Chairman Yi Ki-taek asserted that President Kim Yong-sam's acceptance of Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang's resignation can be interpreted as the president's distrust in the cabinet and demanded the resignation of the entire cabinet to show that all the ministers are responsible.

Chairman Yi Ki-taek clearly opposed the National Assembly's appointment of acting Prime Minister Yi by saying that the new acting Prime Minister Yi Yong-tok has no administrative experience and is too conservative and that a competent and progressive new figure should be elected as prime minister.

Branding the resignation of the prime minister due to a disagreement between the president and the prime minister as a national misfortune, Chairman Yi strongly denounced President Kim's personnel policy.

DP Backs Down From Demand

SK2504071294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party (DP) decided Monday to withdraw its demand for the government to form a coalition cabinet.

Kim Won-ki, a member of the party's supreme committee, said the panel had discussed the demand, which party chairman Yi Ki-taek expressed to reporters on the plane carrying him back from the United States, and agreed to cancel it.

"We talked about the coalition cabinet but reached the conclusion that this is not the appropriate time to make such a demand. Our party has no plans to mention the demand anymore," he said.

Chairman Yi had urged President Kim Yong-sam to disband his cabinet, set up a pan-national crisis management organ and form a coalition cabinet.

Exchange Bank Head Resigns Over Scandal

SK2304032494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0232 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Seoul, April 23 (YONHAP)—Korea Exchange Bank President Ho Chun resigned Saturday for allegedly tampering with the bidding price for the public auction of soon-to-be-privatized Korea Telecom [KT] stocks. Ho, who took up the post in June last year, handed in his resignation at a board meeting with Managing Director Yi Chang-u to act on his behalf until a replacement is named.

Korea Exchange Bank, commissioned by KT to receive bids for its shares, nevertheless took part in the two-day public bidding from Monday and allegedly used inside information to match the lowest offer. Just before the application deadline, the Exchange Bank bid for 900,000 shares at 34,800 won per share with a deposit of 3.13 billion won. The price reportedly matched the successful lowest bid.

Rumors then spread fast that the bank, taking advantage of inside information, knew in advance about the bidding price by examining the offers of investors. Amidst public criticism, the bank withdrew on Thursday after falsely claiming it had lost the bid by pledging 34,600 won, 200 won off its actual bid price. It announced that the successful figure was 34,700 won and that it lost because it offered a lower price, despite its application to the Bank of Korea showing a bid price of 34,800 won.

Ho explained the situation to reporters Friday and again lied while admitting the false announcement. He showed reporters the manipulated computer data stating 34,600 won as the bank's bid.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Contingency Plan for Bosnia on Draft Board

BK2504104594 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said the Malaysian Armed Forces is drafting a contingency plan for its peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina to meet any eventuality due to worsening situation there. He said the plan included steps to be taken to ensure the safety of the Malaysian troops serving with the United Nations Protection Force—UNPROFOR—in the war-torn country. He said the Defense Ministry will ensure that the Malaysian Battalion—Malbatt—members in Bosnia to be prepared to meet any eventuality, including attacks from the Serbs.

Datuk Sri Najib was speaking to reporters after opening an UMNO [United Malays National Organization] seminar in Kerteh in the state of Negeri Sembilan. He said but to do this Malaysia needs the approval of the United Nations. Datuk Sri Najib said so long as Malbatt was [words indistinct], the Malaysian soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina were bound by a UN guideline.

Trade Minister Sees No Change in Ties Under Hata

OW2504074294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Kuala lumpur, April 25 KYODO—Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz said Monday [25 April] she sees no changes in her country's ties with Japan under new Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, whom she described as "well apprised" of global trade matters.

"We've established very good relations with Japan. If there are any changes, it should be for the better," she said.

Hata, foreign minister under Morihiro Hosokawa, was elected Monday by the Diet to succeed Hosokawa, who announced April 8 he was quitting over his personal financial dealings.

Rafidah said she has met Hata several times, most recently at this month's signing of the Uruguay Round world trade pact in Marrakech, Morocco, where "I remember teasing him about being the next prime minister."

She said she felt Hata is fully aware of the ramifications of the Uruguay Round's policies to Free World trade and all other elements of international trading matters.

Asked if she hopes Hata will back the idea of an East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), proposed by Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, Rafidah said he should not be "burdened" with the issue so soon in his term of office.

But she expressed confidence the EAEC will be seen "favorably" in Japan if it is recognized as a loose, consultative forum to enhance regional economic cooperation.

The six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which includes Malaysia, is anxious to get Japan, as East Asia's economic powerhouse, into the EAEC.

But Japan and such other potential members as South Korea are noncommittal in the face of a cool response from the United States, which would be excluded and which views the EAEC as a trade bloc.

Commentary Lauds Malaysia-Thailand Joint Cooperation

BK2304120794 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0810 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] A further reflection of the going cooperation between and among countries of ASEAN was seen in Kuala Lumpur two days ago, where Malaysia and Thailand signed an agreement to jointly explore and exploit oil and gas resources in the Gulf of Thailand. The signing has paved the way for the launching of the oil exploration in the more than 7,000 square kilometer area known as the Joint Development Area, JDA. It took 14 years of talks and negotiations. But the fact that they have led to a successful conclusion is a positive sign of the majority of the leaderships of the two countries and their senior officials who have been engaged in the talks.

Studies made in the JDA have shown that it can be a source as well as a reservoir of oil and gas. Several oil discoveries have already been made in the area. The joint exploration will no doubt lead to more discoveries that will be of benefit to both countries. Four agreements have been signed, including two for production sharing and the other two for joint operations. It may be remembered that both Malaysia and Thailand had previously laid claims to the area in question. So the presence of the prime ministers of the two countries, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and Mr. Chuan Likphai, at the signing ceremony gave added significance to the new venture that the two ASEAN nations have jointly agreed to embark upon.

Dr. Mahathir has described the approach to the agreements as a model for the settlement of overlapping claims. With the signing of the agreements, both countries can look towards broadening cooperation in many other fields that will bring benefit to the people as well as contribute towards a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Southeast Asia.

On his part, Mr. Chuan has expressed confidence that the agreements will boost the close cooperation between the two countries. The agreements, in his words, are a testimony to a long and fruitful relationship between his country and Malaysia.

The body that is chiefly responsible for bringing about the joint exploration deals is the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Authority, MTJA. It ought to be congratulated for its award of contracts to three big companies—one from Malaysia and the other two from Thailand—to carry out the operations. The MTJA emerged from the foresight of past leaders, namely, the late premier of Malaysia, Tun Hussein Onn and his then Thai counterpart, General Kriangsak Chamanan. Their intention to resolve the problem of overlapping claims in the Gulf of Thailand came out with a novel idea of establishing a joint authority.

To the MTJA, there is great scope for the two countries to develop and intensify their economic cooperation. The joint exploration for oil and gas is a unique venture. The MTJA and the three contracting parties have a big task ahead to bring about fruitful results for the benefit of both Malaysia and Thailand.

Minister Speaks at Malaysia-Brunei Joint Commission

BK2404102794 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] Malaysia has proposed that Brunei sign an avoidance of double taxation agreement and an investement guarantee accord as soon as possible to further enhance bilateral trade. The proposal was made by its foreign minister, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in his speech at the first meeting of the Malaysia-Brunei Joint Commission in Langkawi. He (?noted) ample potential in stepping up bilateral trade between the two countries. He said Malaysia is ever ready to encourage its private sector to share its manpower and financial resources to ensure the success of development projects and joint ventures between the two nations.

Cambodia

King To Convene Round Table for Peace 2-7 May

BK2204121594 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 22 Apr 94

["Statement by His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia"; read by announcer—dated 22 April]

[Text] Today, the situation in our Cambodia has deteriorated to the point that our people and our foreign friends working in our country cannot even enjoy minimal security.

The fratricidal war continues to ruin and bleed our nation white, destroying our Kampuchean motherland. If this disastrous situation continues, our motherland and race will certainly perish.

Faced with such a tragic situation, it is my duty to invite Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and of the National Assembly of Cambodia; Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party and first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC]; Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister of the RGC; and His Excellency Khieu Samphan, head of the party of Democratic Kampuchea to a Round Table of Peace and National Reconciliation to be held under my chairmanship at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh capital from 2 to 7 May 1994.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk
[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 April 1994

Leaders Support King's Roundtable Initiative

Backed by Ranariddh, Hun Sen

BK2304084194 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0447 GMT 23 Apr 94

["Message from the Royal Government to His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk"; dated 22 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Your Majesty: After receiving your 22 April statement, both of us, the first and second prime ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC], would like to declare our support for your initiative to convene a roundtable meeting for peace and national reconciliation at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh from 2 to 7 May 1994. We are ready to participate in the meeting to be held under Your Majesty's lofty chairmanship.

Your Majesty and revered queen, please accept our true loyalty and highest respects.

[Signed] First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh; Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 April 1994.

Endorsed by Khieu Samphan

BK2304085894 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0455 GMT 23 Apr 94

["Message from Khieu Samphan to His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman"; dated 22 April; place not given —read by announcer]

[Text] Your Majesty: I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your 22 April 1994 statement. In keeping with the request and with the deepest desire of our entire nation and people, I, on behalf of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, would like to express total support for the proposal, the product of your profound insight, to organize a round-table meeting for peace and national reconciliation under your chairmanship at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh from Monday, 2 April 1994, to Saturday, 7 April 1994.

Please forgive any inappropriateness.

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea.
[Dated] 22 April 1994.

CPP Voices Support

BK2304090394 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0440 GMT 23 Apr 94

["Message from the Cambodian People's Party to the Sacred King Father"; dated 22 April—read by announcer]

[Text] To His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of Cambodia.

Your revered Majesty: All of us, your children of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP], would like to inform you about our support for your 22 April 1994 statement. This is your finest initiative for the supreme cause of peace and national reconciliation and the interests of your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren throughout the Kingdom of Cambodia.

At all times, we pledge to give heed to Your Majesty's finest initiative.

Your Majesty, please, accept our highest respects and loyalty.

Please forgive any inappropriateness.

[Signed] Chea Sim.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 April 1994.

Sihanouk Appreciative of Leaders' Support

Message to Ranariddh, Hun Sen

BK2304092794 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0452 GMT 23 Apr 94

["Message of His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk to First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen"; dated 22 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Beloved Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Samdech Hun Sen: Today, I was deeply moved to receive the message of support from the RGC—with both of you as first and second prime ministers—for my 22 April 1994 statement concerning a round-table meeting for peace and national reconciliation. I would like to express my deepest and warmest thanks to you and the RGC for your constant demonstration of responsibility, which is imbued with sublime and fine patriotism.

Both of you and the RGC members, please accept my warmest and deepest affectionate regards.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 April 1994.

Messsage to Khieu Samphan

BK2304091694 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0457 GMT 23 Apr 94

["Message of His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk to His Excellency Khieu Samphan, Chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea"; dated 22 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Your highly esteemed Excellency: Today, I am extremely pleased to received a fax giving the total support of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] headed by youself for my 22 April 1994 statement concerning a round-table meeting for peace and national reconciliation. I would like to profoundly and warmly thank you and the PDK for the above demonstration of responsibility, which is imbued with fine and sublime patriotism.

Please, Your Excellency and the entire PDK, accept my warmest and deepest affectionate regards.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.
[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 April 1994.

Message to CPP

BK2304092394 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0443 GMT 23 Apr 94

["Message from His Majesty King Norodom Sihanouk Varaman to Samdech Chea Sim, Chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and National Assembly"; dated 22 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed Samdech: Today, I have received, with the most enthusiastic emotion, the message of support for my 22 April 1994 statement from the entire Cambodian People's Party [CPP] headed by yourself. I would like to express my deepest and warmest thanks to you and the CPP for your constant demonstration of responsibility, which is imbued with fine and sublime patriotism.

Samdech and madam, the CPP Standing Committee, and all the CPP members, please accept my deepest and warmest fraternal affection.

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk.
[Dated] Phnom Penh, 22 April 1994.

Hun Sen Repeats Charges of Thai Aid to KR

BK2204153794 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] The government delegation led by Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister, and his wife arrived in the Takeo provincial capital at 0940 on (?21) April for a two-day working visit.

Accompanying the delegation were His Excellency [H.E.] (Sok An), co-minister of the Council of Ministers' Office; H.E. Mok Maret, state secretary for environment; H.E.

Nhim Vanda, [words indistinct] and adviser to the second prime minister; and the excellencies [words indistinct].

Attending the welcoming ceremony were H.E. So Phirun governor of Takeo Province, and his wife; as well as the excellencies deputy provincial governor, ministerial and department officials, and governors of various districts in Takeo Province.

During its stay in Takeo Province, the government delegation led by Samdech Hun Sen attended a get-together with the provincial officials at the provincial hall.

H.E. So Phirun reported on the political, economic, security, and social situation by stressing the outcome of last year's rice production. According to the report, last year the peasants in Takeo Province planted over (?164,000) hectares of rainy season rice [words indistinct] and produced over (?147,800) metric tons of rice. The failure to fulfill the production plan was caused by flooding and [words indistinct]. As for the dry season rice, the province could plant only 49,000 hectares yielding only 48,000-odd metric tons. As farming is the only industry in the province, H.E. So Phirun stressed that judging from the total yield, the province might suffer a consumption shortfall of 19,800 metric tons of rice this year.

At the same time, the province has repaired and built irrigation networks for agriculture by implementing the water methods in the Sangkum Reas Niyum [Sihanouk's popular Socialist Party] era.

[words indistinct] electricity, water, and [words indistinct] Route 2 stretching from the provincial town to the border.

Speaking on that occasion, Samdech Hun Sen conveyed the best regards from the king, the prince first prime minister, and the royal government to the administrators and people in Takeo Province.

He discussed various issues, especially the royal government's policy toward the Democratic Kampuchean group. The samdech [words indistinct] a law to declare the Khmer Rouge [KR] to be rebels. This is an appropriate measure since the government has kept its door open to the Khmer Rouge for quite a long time, but they have failed to respond. Moreover, they have even committed destructive crimes and caused insecurity in the country. So far, the royal government has practiced restraint by adhering to the principle of national reconciliation in line with the king's lofty aspirations. But now, the royal government can no longer tolerate their actions.

Concerning the relations between Thailand and the Khmer Rouge, the second prime minister said that Thailand has always given full support to the Khmer Rouge in opposing the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] and the Cambodian people.

The samdech added that the king has always supported the National Assembly and the RGC because the two [words indistinct] organizations were born from the Cambodian people and are legal entities.

Concerning development work in Takeo Province, Samdech Hun Sen said that the province has important potential for investment [passage indistinct].

Radio Questions Thailand's Sincerity

BK2404122594 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Station commentary: "Is It an Appeal or a Threat?"]

[Text] According to AFP, Thailand has recently proposed a meeting of ASEAN representatives in Thailand next week to discuss a conflict with Cambodia which is apparently becoming ceaselessly more and more serious and which seems to be slipping toward the edge of a ravine. Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said Thailand will (?listen to) the ASEAN representatives' opinions on the (?dispute) at a meeting, which will prepare for an ASEAN ministerial meeting in (?June), to be held in Bangkok next week.

Moreover, a report from Bangkok said Prasong on 18 April appealed to diverse countries or outsiders to stop supplying armaments and ammunition to Cambodia, saying the military aid would further inflame the conflict between the Phnom Penh government and Khmer Rouge rebels. The Thai foreign minister also told reporters in Bangkok that the aid was not (?an approach) to solving the problem. He added that various countries and outsiders appear to be bringing more violence to Cambodia on top of the existing conflict.

It is wondered whether Pasong Sunsiri's [words indistinct] statement contradicts the accusation by the Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] about Thailand's recent support for the Khmer Rouge—support that is contrary to Thailand's pledge made during Chuan Likphai's visit to Cambodia—and that Thailand supports the Cambodian government, not the Khmer Rouge.

According to the 19 April issue of Thailand's THE NATION, Thai Army Chief General Wimon Wongwanit has issued an indignant threat to Cambodian leaders, warning them that Thailand can no longer maintain a good relationship [words indistinct], referring to Phnom Penh's accusing Thailand of helping Khmer Rouge leaders.

Wimon added that between human beings, true friendship is very important, and so it is with international relations. Without sincerity, there can be no friendship. He further said that [word indistinct] without Thailand as a true friend, Cambodia would certainly be in trouble.

Observers wonder why, since the Cambodian Government occupied the Khmer Rouge's important bases along the border, Thailand has never expressed support for the occupation or denounced the Khmer Rouge. It has only done things, such as the recent repatriation of 25,000 Cambodian refugees in violation of human rights, that appear to be opposed to victories by the RGC and opposed to international organizations. Analysts are anxious about the conflict, which is becoming more and more serious.

As for the Kingdom of Cambodia, it has always wanted peace and friendship. It is also grateful to its friends for their understanding. We wholeheartedly welcome (?Thai) friends, but not those having a vested interest. The Cambodian people have never practiced the policy of catching a fish with two hands.

Control of Vietnamese Refugees' Movements Urged

BK2504092994 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 24 Apr 94 pp 1, 5

[Text] The problem of the Vietnamese war refugees at Chrey Thom [Kandal Province] has become an issue worth considering. According to the refugees, the Vietnamese who fled from the Khmer Rouge's massacre around Boeng Tonle Sap Lake last year and who have gathered in Chrey Thom at the Cambodian-Vietnamese border with more than 1,000 boats, now number about 10,000. Nevertheless, according to the figure of the Kandal Provincial Research Commission, when the UN High Commissioner for Refugees toured the area on 20 April 1994, the number of those refugees remained only 5,000. So where were almost half of other ethnic Vietnamese?

Answering this question, the Vietnamese displaced persons said: It is not difficult for those wanting to leave Chrey Thom. The easiest way for them is to sell their boats, then leave the area. According to local informed sources, those leaving this place have returned to their birthplace around Boeng Tonle Sap Lake; they claim that they were born in Cambodia.

The cause of the Vietnamese refugees' continued departure from Chrey Thom without permission from the Cambodian authorities is that they can no longer live in hardship there. A great many ethnic Vietnamese in the area said: The remaining Vietnamese refugees will leave in next three months if there is no solution to their problem from the Cambodian Government .

Their departure implies that they demand to return to their old places. According to this argument, there are two problems worth being considered:

1. The departure from the Chrey Thom area without law supporting those refugees: The departure appears to be evidence of the government's incapability to administer foreigners living in Cambodia. This sufficiently shows that the government's immigration law to be promulgated in the near future will encounter difficulties in their implementation. Because the ethnic Vietnamese continue to insist that their real birthplace is in Cambodia and because some of them even have identity cards as proof.

2. When the government's immigration law has not yet been issued, the Vietnamese war refugees should not be allowed to come, leave, or act at will. It is reported that they can travel wherever as they please and that their presence in the area is just for receiving meager assistance from humanitarian organizations. Now and then they go about doing their business in Vietnam or in Phnom Penh. There is another group of Vietnamese who do not yet have proof that they were born in Cambodia have looked for ways to establish that their real birthplace is in Cambodia. Besides, in light of the event, it can be concluded that the area has not been under the control of the Cambodian authorities. If it is the case, this issue should be up for review.

National Assembly Session Rescheduled to 27 Apr

BK2304144594 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] The National Assembly Secretariat wishes to inform the public that the second session of the National Assembly's first legislature, scheduled for 25 April 1994, has been postponed until 0800 on 27 April 1994.

Over 138,100 Hectares of Dry-Season Rice Planted

BK2404142494 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Apr 94

[Text] According to the Agriculture Ministry, more than 138,100 hectares of dry-season rice, or over 86 percent of the planned target, has been planted nationwide by 4 April. Outstanding provinces and cities in the planting effort included Takeo, Kandal, Prey Veng, and Kompong Cham Provinces.

The report also said that during this 1993-1994 dry season, our peasants planted 7,900 hectares of rice fewer than in the previous year. Many factors, such as [words indistinct] and late and prolonged harvest of rainy-season rice, delayed this year's dry-season rice planting.

During the same period, over 50,000 hectares of dry-season rice were harvested nationwide and the average yield was about two metric tons per hectare.

Indonesia

Hata's Election as New Premier Welcomed

OW2504102394 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Jakarta, April 25 KYODO—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said on Monday [25 April] that Indonesia congratulates Tsutomu Hata on becoming the new Japanese prime minister. Alatas told reporters that Hata is not a new figure to Indonesia and has known about Indonesian affairs for a long time. He refused to be drawn, however, on the prospect of Hata's leadership, saying, "it is difficult for me to comment on it because it's a Japanese internal affair."

NATO Action Against Serbs Said Insufficient

BK2204034194 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 14 Apr 94 p 6

[Editorial: "NATO's Insufficient Action"]

[Text] NATO has again adopted a tough stand on the Serbs. Last Sunday, two NATO F-18 fighters bombed Serb positions besieging Gorazde in response to a request by UN peacekeepers. The action was repeated the following day. As a matter of fact, the Serbs who claimed that 15 soldiers and several civilians were killed, did not suffer many casualties.

The Serbs' reaction to the bombings was immediate and strong although their operation was not a large-scale one. They also immediately suspended contacts with the UNPROFOR [United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia]. Serb leader Radovan Karadzic even canceled a meeting with a U.S. peace emissary scheduled for Monday.

In return, NATO threatened to immediately launch a larger-scale air strike if the Serbs retaliated. As Serb forces continued to bomb Gorazde, NATO launched the bombing operation. Long before the first strike was launched, NATO had asked the Serbs to stop the siege of Gorazde declared by the United Nations as a "safe haven." Apparently, the UN had asked NATO to carry out its threat as the Serbs failed to end the siege.

As a matter of fact, NATO's bombing operation had by then become controversial. The United States, for example, stated that the bombings were necessary to pressure the Serbs. "If the Serbs remain obstinate, they will face further strikes," said Bill Clinton. A similar threat also came from the UN secretary general. On the other hand, China as a permanent member of the UN Security Council expressed concern over the strikes. "We only support the peaceful settlement of all international conflicts," said a spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Regardless of any controversy, the strikes dealt a serious blow to the Serbs. The Serbs knew very well that NATO had often been hesitant in taking tough action and capitalized on it. They layed siege and bombed Gorazde, where at least 52 Bosnian civilians were killed and hundreds wounded seriously, and this is just one of their blatant violations.

On the other hand, NATO's bombing operation did not do much to improve the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Although the UN has been "maintaining security" there for over a year, the Bosnian Muslims as well as Croats are still in danger. The Serbs, who have a better knowledge of the terrain and who are better armed, have easily deceived the UN peacekeepers. As we all know, hundreds of thousands of Bosnians have been killed by Serb miliatiamen in the increasingly absurd [preceding word in English] Balkan crisis.

If the UN is serious about overcoming the Bosnian conflict, they should not just take sporadic action. There must be a comprehensive settlement and a preliminary step will be to strictly disarm the Serbs. Without serious action, there will be no way of expecting the Serbs to sit at the negotiating table and draft a common peace plan. Unfortunately, the United Nations or NATO has yet to do this.

Envoy Asks UN To Save Gorazde From Attacks

BK2204155394 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Excerpt] Indonesia has asked the UN Security Council to take decisive action to save Gorazde, one of the UN-designated safe havens in Bosnia, from the Serbian attacks. Speaking at a formal meeting of the UN Security Council in New York, Nugroho Wisnumurti, Indonesian permanent representative to the United Nations, said the status of Gorazde and other safe havens must be upheld and the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina lifted.

Nugroho said a new diplomatic initiative aimed at reaching a cease-fire in Gorazde and the entire territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina must continue so as to find a political settlement to the conflict. He also stressed the importance of ensuring the safety and independence of the UN personnel serving in Bosnia. [passage omitted]

Suharto, Iraqi Envoy Discuss UN Sanction Issue

JN2204125494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] In Jakarta today, Indonesian President Suharto received a National Assembly delegation led by Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih, President Saddam Husayn's envoy. Suharto welcomed them to Indonesia and said he hoped their contacts with Indonesian parliamentarians would further boost bilateral ties. The president noted that during a visit earlier in the week to Indonesia by Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the foreign minister discussed with him recent developments in the UN Security Council [with regard to Iraq's demand that the sanctions be lifted]. Suharto told Salih that Indonesia takes a keen interest in the matter and will pursue it in its capacity as the current president of the Nonaligned Movement through its coordination bureau in Jakarta and liaison office in New York. Indonesia also plans to contact the movement's nations who are not permanent Security Council members. In case no suitable solution is worked out to end the hardships the Iraqis are experiencing from the sanctions, Indonesia, Suharto added, will explore other avenues. His country also stands ready to extend humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people, particularly medicines.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih thanked the Indonesian president for his time and for the positive approach of the Indonesian leadership and people to Iraq.

Alatas Reassures PRC on Quelling Medan Riots

BK2204130294 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Indonesia hopes that the PRC Government does not doubt its determination and ability to swiftly cope with the riots in Medan, North Sumatera, which have threatened the safety of the ethnic Chinese community.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said this in Jakarta today in response to a statement issued by (Wu Chiaming), spokesman of the PRC Foreign Ministry, calling on the Indonesian Government to immediately curb the demonstrations by workers in Medan which led to anti-Chinese riots.

The Indonesian Government's determination to deal with the riots was reflected in the remarks by President Suharto and other high-ranking officials who sought to take strong action against the rioters because the demonstrations led to destruction acts based on the sensitive SARA [tribal, religious, racial, and intergrouping conflicts] issues.

MP Calls PRC Reaction to Medan Riots 'Excessive'

BK2404085594 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 24 Apr 94

[From the "Parliamentary News Roundup"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Theo Sambuaga, vice chairman of House Commission I [in charge of foreign affairs, defense, security, and information] considers the Chinese Government's statement on the labor case in Medan too excessive. According to Sambuaga, from the United Development Faction, the Chinese Government's statement was improper in the context of friendly relations between the two countries.

[Sambuaga] The statement can affect good relations between the two countries because it can be interpreted as an act of interference in Indonesia's internal affairs. It is important that such an official statement be made cautiously because it may incite or contribute to undesirable racial conflicts in Indonesia. Certainly, the Chinese Government and other governments know that Indonesia has consistently handled various problems through swift legal approaches and has never discriminated against its citizens on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or least of all race. The government has consistently upheld it's principles in resolving all problems, not just what happened in Medan with all its excesses. There have been no problems. What happened in Medan stemmed from irresponsible acts, and legal action will definitely be taken against the culprits.

[Correspondent] In this regard, Theo Sambuaga urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to brief the Chinese ambassador on the incident so the Chinese Government will not make a wrong judgment of the events in Indonesia.

Reportage on Civil Unrest in Medan Continues

Public Security Said Under Control

BK2104133294 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 21 Apr 94

[Text] Public security and order is well under control in Medan, North Sumatera. Here is RRI [Radio Republik Indonesia] correspondent Suyono reporting from Medan on the Medan protests:

[Begin recording] [Suyono] As of this evening, public security and order in Medan is 90 percent under control following protests by factory workers that are believed to have been masterminded by irresponsible people. Major General A. Pranowo, commander of the Bukit Barisan First Military Region Command, told reporters in Medan that 14 suspects believed to have masterminded the protests are still under investigation. About 14 company-level units mobilized by the Northern Sumatera Regional Agency for Maintenance of Stability remain on alert at sensitive places.

[Pranowo] The latest developments show that the protests led to destructive acts. A field observation in Tanjung Merawa showed that workers in the majority of factories there were not involved in protests and had no intention of becoming so, but certain outsiders came and tried to force them to join the protests. Because they refused, destructive acts such as destroying offices took place. It is also apparent that the protests led to destructive acts, intimidation, and terror against workers and factories. We are concerned with this development. As a matter of fact, the security forces have coordinated their response to the situation to prevent it from spreading and to eliminate excesses. Certain groups appear to be exploiting the protests for their own interests. This must be overcome immediately.

[Suyono] A joint team organized by the Northern Sumatera Regional Agency for Maintenance of Stability said the protests—which led to intimidation and terror—bore a resemblance to communist tactics, as noted yesterday by the chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia. The commander said that field observation showed this was partly true. Accordingly, the joint team is continuing investigations to find out who really masterminded the protests. The commander warned everyone in the region not to be provoked by rumors and anonymous phone calls that are aimed at heightening tension in the region. This will ensure public security and order in North Sumatera. This is correspondent Suyono reporting from Medan. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the Central Executive Council of the All Indonesian Trade Union [SPSI] has rejected any protests that harm public order, let alone that lead to destructive acts or ethnic, religious, racial, or communal riots. Imam Sudarwo, general chairman of the SPSI Central Executive Council, said SPSI condemns acts that justify the use of any means to achieve an objective, thus inflicting moral and material losses. In a press release today, Imam Sudarwo supported the government's action against those who violated laws and rules. He urged the SPSI rank and file and all sides to conduct a self-examination in the wake of the Medan protests. In this respect, he urged all sides to handle the manpower issue seriously by strictly adhering to the Pancasila labor relations system, which has become a national consensus. The SPSI Central Executive Council also urged all Indonesian workers to maintain unity and cohesion to enable the Indonesian people to enjoy political and economic stability.

Labor Unrest, Rioting Reviewed

BK2204090294 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 22 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Three dailies carry editorials on the recent Medan protests.

Bandung PIKIRAN RAKYAT regrets that the protests demanding greater welfare lost their direction and that conscience was replaced by emotions. The Medan incident, which cost lives and property, has obviously marred the sacred struggle of the Indonesian workers. PIKIRAN RAKYAT hopes that officials in charge of manpower more actively monitor the condition of workers in their respective areas in the wake of the Medan incident.

ANGKATAN BERSENJATA focuses on who is behind the protests. It says the culprit is none other than the so-called Indonesian Prosperous Trade Union or SBSI. The minister of manpower does not recognize SBSI as an organization representing workers. Moreover, the organization has not been registered, and its existence has not been endorsed by the minister of home affairs. However, SBSI continues to conduct its activities, while the press consciously or unconsciously helps promote the organization by giving wide converage to its statements and activities. SBSI does not stop its activities, although workers are indifferent to some of its activities. Its methods—agitation, dissemination of rumors, and mass action—led to violence. In the wake of the incident, ANGKATAN BERSENJATA calls for a comprehensive investigation of SBSI's involvement in the Medan protests, including subsequent action against its leaders. Meanwhile, the daily urges the All Indonesian Trade Union [SPSI] as an organization representing workers to be more sensitive to the aspirations of its members.

Focusing on the incident, POS KOTA says the Medan protests showed that the Pancasila industrial relations system is not working as it should. According to POS KOTA, it is very important to implement the Pancasila industrial relations system in local private companies, let alone in foreign private companies. It has often been questioned as to why most businessmen refuse to sign employment agreements and allow SPSI to set up units in working places and why the government has no power to require or force them to do so. The question has yet to be fully answered, POS KOTA concludes.

Rumored Jakarta Rioting Assessed

BK2304085094 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 23 Apr 94

[From the press review]

[Text] The daily MEDIA INDONESIA says the protests for wage hikes in Medan that degenerated into rioting which was on the verge of spreading elsewhere opened up a new dimension—the extent to which policymakers and businessmen in the country understand the meaning of welfare. According to MEDIA INDONESIA, we have just implemented rules on minimum wages, but our view of welfare remains very unclear and confusing because the minimum wages are considered a maximum return.

The daily PELITA noted that some disturbing rumors were circulating in Jakarta simultaneously. In this connection, PELITA says the rumors about rioting in Jakarta should make us realize the sensitivity of the matter, because it has exposed other basic problems that should be resolved.

Meanwhile, the daily REPUBLIKA says the Jakarta rumors pertained not only to rioting but also to a dollar rush. According to REPUBLIKA, it would be disturbing if citizens were provoked by various monetary rumors. Experience shows that a public panic would lead to a negative monetary situation. Such an unwarranted panic should be prevented. Of course, it will be insufficent for the government to simply give a vague clarification because this will again provoke citizens to be speculative.

Procured German Warships Arrive in Jakarta

BK2204102194 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Three Indonesian warships purchased from Germany, namely, KRI [Republic of Indonesia Ship] Sultan Taha Saifudin, KRI Cut Nyak Din, and KRI Teluk Celukan Bawang, arrived at Jakarta's Tanjung Priok port today. A press release issued by the Indonesian Navy's Information Service said the three warships are part of the 39 warships purchased by the Indonesian Government from Germany. They consist of 16 (?Parchim)-class corvettes, nine Kondor-class minesweepers, and 14 (?Frost)-class tank landing ships.

With the arrival of the ships, a total of 17 warships have thus far arrived in Indonesia. KRI Sultan Taha Saifudin and KRI Cut Nyak Din have Navy Lieutenant Colonel (Juwana Suwarna) and Navy Lieutenant Colonel (Pramoyo Wibudi) as their captains. The two ships are corvettes belonging to the (?Parchim)-class; they weigh 1,200 tonnes each, have a speed of 25 knots, and are armed with one cannon and one torpedo-launcher. KRI Teluk Celukan Bawang has Navy Mayor (Anthony Nurbadi) as its captain and the ship is capable of transporting 12 tanks in an amphibious operation. The three warships left (Nurstadt), Germany, on 4 March and took 48 days to reach Jakarta, which is 10,617 miles away. During the voyage, the three warships were manned entirely by 171 Indonesian Navy personnel.

Philippines

President Ramos Congratulates Japan's Hata

OW2504114494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1137 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Manila, April 25 KYODO—President Fidel Ramos on Monday [25 April] congratulated newly elected Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata and expressed confidence that ties between Japan and the Philippines will further improve during the new prime minister's tenure.

In a letter to Hata, Ramos said he looks forward to working with the new Japanese premier, particularly at the second meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum scheduled for later this year in Indonesia.

NDF Rejects Government's Peace Talks Proposal

BK2504071394 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Apr 94 pp 1, 26

[By L. Baterna Hubert]

[Text] Brussels, Belgium—The Ramos Administration has swept away all chances of a peace accord between the government and the National Democratic Front (NDF), said Luis Jalandoni, NDF vice chairman for international affairs, during a talk before a small group at the Centre International over the weekend.

Jalandoni assailed the declaration of an executive order which "imposed the Philippine Government Constitution as the framework of the peace talks."

"For the NDF, the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), this is a violation of the government-NDF Joint Declaration signed in The Hague (Netherlands) last September 1992," Jalandoni said.

"This imposition of the rule of law will never be accepted because it will be synonymous to surrender and it fails to recognize that the revolutionary movement has its own constitution, programs, and processes."

Jalandoni, now a Dutch citizen based at the NDF headquarters in Utrecht, The Netherlands, also cited the NDF's opposition to President Ramos' amnesty proclamations which, he said, "grant a license to kill and encourage the same people who were responsible for salvaging and the disappearance of persons to commit more crimes while extending amnesty to renegades and corrupt officials who profit from false surrenders."

He disclosed that an NDF communique was sent recently to former Ambassador Howard Dee of the government negotiating panel that "with the amnesty proclamations and the executive order, the Philippine Government has put huge obstructions in the peace process."

"A possible meeting between government and NDF representatives cannot take place as long as these obstacles, which Ramos himself had placed, remain," he said.

Meanwhile, Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Romeo Arguelles confirmed that former Ambassador Dee had direct communication with the NDF. "They are still talking, although no agreement has yet been reached on the venue for the second round of exploratory talks," Arguelles said. "As far as Manila is concerned, the government is still open and is prepared to negotiate."

Jalandoni, guest speaker of a conference with slide presentation and photo exhibit organized by the Centre International in collaboration with the Ligue Anti-Imperialiste and the Groupe Philippines de Belgique, related the "25 years of resistance in the Philippines" in commemoration of the 25th year anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA).

Connie Ledesma of the Makibaka [Makabayan Kilusan ng Bagong Kababaihan—Nationalist Movement of New Womanhood] Women's Front, who spoke on the "Role of Filipino Women in the Armed Struggle," joined Jalandoni on the panel.

"Despite Ramos' predictions that the NPA would self-destruct in December 1993, the NPA is still here, large, strong, and flourishing. It will continue to be so long after the Ramos Administration have left the scene. With the support of the masses, the NPA is invincible," he said.

Tanada [Subhead]

Senate Minority Leader Wigberto Tanada asked President Ramos to recast his conditional and limited amnesty into a general and unconditional amnesty as recommended by the National Unification Commission (NUC) to encourage rebel groups to surrender with honor and justice.

In a privilege speech, Tanada said that the two amnesty proclamations are a "virtual trap" that would discourage instead of encourage the rebels to apply for amnesty because the approval or disapproval of amnesty applications is open-ended.

"I am for amnesty. But I am for amnesty at the proper time and after the proper preliminary steps have been taken; not the amnesty in the form, spirit, and substance the administration is foisting," Tanada said.

He added that the government and the rebel groups should have first sat down over the negotiating table to ensure the success of any amnesty proclamation.

Tanada said that he has been informed by all the armed rebel groups—leftists, rightists, and secessionists—of their blanket rejection of a unilateral amnesty outside of negotiations.

"Without the active participation of these rebel forces, Proclamation 347 and 348 will not be workable and will generate more problems than they will resolve," he said. "Let us remember that the commitment to negotiate goes with the commitment not to take any action that will be seen to sabotage or endanger the negotiations."

Tanada expressed his strongest objection to the "dangerous and unacceptable" Proclamation 348 extending amnesty to applicants from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) personnel who may have committed human rights violations in connection with their counter-insurgency operations.

"It is dangerous and unacceptable," he said. "It is amnesty, or forgiveness, being extended by government to its own agents against the very people that government is supposed to serve and protect."

He argued that the only ones who are in a position to forgive human rights violators are the human rights victims, not the government.

CPP 'Plotting' To Kill Four Communist Leaders

BK2204113094 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 18 Apr 94 pp 1, 6

[Text] Bacolod City—A faction of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] allied with the exiled Jose Ma. Sison is plotting to assassinate Arturo Tabara, chairman of the New People's Army's [NPA] Visayas Commission and a bitter critic of Sison.

The plan to liquidate Tabara and three other top rebel leaders opposing the leadership of Sison, will be carried out by the Melito Glor Command headed by Gregorio Rosal, Alias Ka [Comrade] Roger, according to intelligence reports gathered by the military.

Other rebel leader sentenced to death are Romulo Kintanar, former NPA chief; Ricardo Reyes, then Secretary General; and, Felimon Lagman, secretary of the Manila-Rizal Regional Party Committee, the report added.

The liquidation of Tabara, Lagman, Kintanar, and Reyes were confirmed by Ka Roger as published in the national papers.

Tabara is facing kidnaping charges in Tiaong, Quezon and is detained in Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

Estelito Dioquino, former commander of the NPA in Southern Negros, admitted selective liquidation is being practiced by the underground movement on abusive policemen, paramilitary troopers, and even army men.

He said he does not know about the claims of pro-Sison forces in Central Negros that Tabara and others are subjects of liquidation by the other rebel faction.

Dioquino said the extent of punishment for abusive law enforcers or individuals depend on the gravity of their acts against the masses.

Dioquino used to be aligned with Tabara in the still unresolved power struggle within the CPP-NPA.

The continuing criticism being waged by the Tabara faction against Sison and its plan to establish a new party might have forced the CPP mainstream officials to order the liquidation.

Col. Antonio Romero, 301st infantry brigade commander, said a bloody confrontation between the two rebel factions is possible if reports about the liquidation of top rebel leaders are true.

Armed Forces Chief Begins Military Reshuffle

BK2204112694 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 19 Apr 94 p 6

[Text] AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Arturo T. Enrile yesterday named three veteran Mindanao campaigners to sensitive military posts signalling a revamp in the military establishments.

Army Brig. Gen. Jocelyn Nazareno, Camp Aguinaldo commander and former 602 Brigade commander based in Maguindanao, was designated as the new deputy AFP chief of staff for civilian military operation.

Army Brig. Gen. Victor Lapus, chief of the AFP training command based in Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal, was appointed as the new deputy AFP chief of staff for operations.

Another Mindanao campaigner, Col. Angelo Reyes, chief of the 603 Brigade based in Davao City, was appointed as the new chief of the AFP Civil Relations Service [AFP/CRS].

Nazareno replaced Brig. Romeo Padiernos who was named chief of the Army's 5th Infantry Division based in Gamu, Isabela.

Col. Reyes replaced Brig. Gen. Rene Dado, chief of the AFP/CRS, who was named as the new Camp Aguinaldo Camp commander.

General Lapus replaced Brig. Gen. Danilo Olay, who was appointed as the new chief of the Army's 8th Infantry Division based in Samar.

Lt. Commander Jack Castano, AFP deputy public information officer, said the naming of Generals Nazareno and Lapus to sensitive staff positions signals a revamp in the service after the compulsory retirement of General Lisandro C. Abadia as AFP chief.

Earlier, Major Gen. Alfredo Filler took over as AFP vice chief of staff replacing Vice Admiral Mariano Dumancas Jr., who went on terminal leave of absence. Major General Orlando Soriano of Northern Luzon Command [Nolcom] was also earlier appointed as chief of the AFP Southern Command [Southcom] based in Zamboanga City.

Soriano replaced Lt. Gen. Thelmo Cunanan, chief of AFP Southcom, who retired from the military service.

While Major General Romulo Yap was installed as the new Army chief, Brig. General Ruperto Ambil of the 8th Infantry Division was named General Yap's replacement at the AFP Visayas Command based in Cebu City.

Brig. Gen. Edgardo Batenga, who came from the Army's 5th Infantry Division, took over as General Soriano's replacement at the Nolcom.

Thailand

Government Supports Japan's New Prime Minister

OW2504101394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0956 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Bangkok, April 25 KYODO—Thailand on Monday [25 April] welcomed the election of Tsutomu Hata as Japan's prime minister and expressed confidence in continuing close relations centering on regional economic cooperation.

"Under Hata's leadership, we believe that Thailand and Japan will continue to enjoy their close and cordial relations, particularly on economic cooperation on both the bilateral and regional level," said Government spokesman Abhisit Vejjajiva [name as received].

Iran Agrees To Exchange Crude Oil for Rice

BK2504041594 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 94 p B2

[Text] THAILAND and Iran have finally agreed in principle to exchange Thai rice with crude oil from Iran after the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) suggested the government refine the low-quality crude oil at lower costs in a third country, instead of burdening the local refineries with the additional costs of refining the crude oil, which contains higher sulphur and metallic contents.

The PTT suggested the government refine the problematic oil in Italy because if the local refineries are to refine the crude oil, it would have to spend additional funds for the installation of machinery designed to properly refine the crude oil from Iran, said Oranut Osathanan, director-general of the Foreign Trade Department.

Iran has long been the customer of rice from Thailand, but Thailand has been reluctant to buy oil from Iran because the Iranian oil possesses an undesirably high sulphur and metallic content. Thai and Iranian governments agreed a few months ago to conduct a counter trade by exchanging Thai rice with the crude oil from Iran, but so far they have yet to exchange their goods because the local refinery, Petroleum Authority of Thailand, has asked for compensation to offset the additional cost associated with refining the crude oil from Iran.

The two sides last week signed the MoU, said Commerce Ministry Uthai Phimchaichon, speaking upon his return trip from Iran. He said Thailand agreed in principle to export 300,000-400,000 tonnes of Thai rice to Iran in exchange for crude oil. The amount of crude oil under the deal has yet been disclosed.

PTT will decide how much Iran crude oil Thailand should buy before submining the proposal to the cabinet for approval, Oranut said.

"Iran is a regular customer, and if we want to maintain our rice market we should buy its crude oil," she added.

Oranut Osathanan, director-general of the Foreign Trade Department, without elaborating on the compensation, said Iran has allowed Thailand to refine the crude oil at Singapore and Okinawa in Japan.

Italian Firm Agrees to Barter Deal for Helicopters

BK2304100694 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 94 p 24

[Excerpt] Italian companies have agreed to buy more Thai products as part of a counter-trade deal involving the Thai Defence Ministry's purchase of helicopters worth 3.4 billion baht, Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon said after returning from Rome yesterday.

Mr. Uthai declined to give more details about what the Italians would do, saying only that the outcome of the negotiations exceeded expectations. He said he would brief the Defence Ministry and Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak about the talks.

The agreement will require Cabinet approval.

A Commerce Ministry source who was with the delegation in Rome said that Alinia, the Italian company in the process of selling the G-222 helicopters, had agreed to buy Thai products worth about 680 million baht or 20 percent of the sales volume.

The source said the company accepted Thai proposals to increase trade in eight products: frozen chicken, rubber, tapioca flour, toys, ceramics, sport shoes, plastic products and rubber gloves

Mr. Uthai claimed that the Italian talks should serve as a standard for Thai government agencies in future deals with other countries.

The Government last year had delayed approving the purchase of the transport helicopters and asked the Commerce Ministry to try to sell more Thai agricultural products to offset the trade deficit. [passage omitted]

Chuan, Prasong View Cambodian Issues

BK2204140594 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Regarding a misunderstanding between Thailand and Cambodia, the prime minister has said that certain countries could be harboring prejudice against Thailand, so therefore the mass media should cooperate by filing reports that concern Thailand and Cambodia in ways that help restore good understanding between the two countries. The prime minister said this at Government House this afternoon.

[Begin recording] [Chuan] This was a topic discussed in the National Security Council meeting, to the effect that some countries appeared to be prejudiced. Therefore, the mass media is asked to cooperate.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will the government readjust its policy toward Cambodia?

[Chuan] I said two days ago that there would be no changes in the policy.

[Second correspondent] Did the military give you any new information? Did it ask for approval to carry out any action?

[Chuan] No. It was I who invited the defense minister and the supreme commander to discuss issues which were touched upon earlier, such as the border and the Cambodian issues. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri told newsmen after his meeting today with the prime minister that he informed Chuan that he would inspect the Cambodian border in Ubon Ratchathani and Trat Provinces. He would listen to briefings by local officials and visit the border areas where residents might be affected in order to gather information for planning appropriate measures.

Prasong said the Thai ambassador in Phnom Penh has been sending him regular reports and has tried to call on the Cambodian Government to clarify matters and to request certain documents, such as photographs. The photographs concerned have not been supplied so far. The ambassador reported this morning that from 2-7 May Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will hold a roundtable meeting between the government and the Khmer Rouge with the aim of creating national reconciliation. This roundtable meeting is a good idea.

The foreign minister said he hopes that the problems will be resolved. Diplomatic measures will have to be carried out promptly in order to achieve understanding between the two countries. Regarding the Thai military's reaction to the Cambodian Government's conduct, the foreign minister said the military probably wanted to gauge the people's reaction. The people's tolerance also has its limits. Regarding possible interference by third countries, the foreign minister said the issue could not be verified at this time. Therefore, it is not prudent to charge any country of interference unless there is evidence to substantiate it.

Foreign Minister Inspects Cambodian Border

BK2304115294 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri and his party inspected the situation along the Cambodian border in Surin Province. In Kap Choeng District, they were received and given a briefing by Major General Sanan Marangsit, commander of the Suranari Force. According to the briefing, the Suranari Force is responsible for security along the Cambodian border in five Thai provinces: Surin, Buriram, Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, and Amnat Charoen. The border in this area is about 800 km in length. The Lao border also makes up part of this length. The border problems in Surin mainly concerned damage from shells from the fighting in Cambodia. Recently, nearly 200 artillery shells landed in Thai territory during the clashes in that country. There were also nine incidents of border encroachment. The Suranari Force has informed the agencies concerned of these incidents in order to protest to the Cambodian Government. There were also 21 incidents of vehicles being hijacked near the border, 19 of these incidents being solved. Interrogation showed that Cambodian soldiers participated in the car hijacks.

The Suranari Force commander said trading activities along the Surin border have slowed considerably. The Chong Chom pass in Kap Choeng Distric remains closed. Thai officials have been providing safety for Thai people along the border. It is expected that fighting along the border will continue as long as problems in Cambodia remain unsolved.

The foreign minister then proceeded to inspect the situation in Chong Chom pass. He also met with Cambodian vendors selling Thai goods on the Cambodian side of the pass. The vendors wanted Thailand to reopen the border for trading as soon as possible. The foreign minister assured them that if fighting in Cambodia subsides, the Thai Government is likely to reopen the pass.

The foreign minister said he will use information obtained during the current trip to improve the overall situation.

Further on Prasong Visit

BK2404110794 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said yesterday he will contact Cambodian leaders this week to discuss border conflicts between Thailand and Cambodia and "do my best" to clarify any misunderstanding between the two countries.

Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong was talking to reporters at the end of a border inspection visit that took him to Surin, Sa Kaeo and Chanthaburi provinces.

The Foreign Minister said the information from the fact-finding trip was very useful and he would do his best to resolve problems with Cambodia.

The Foreign Minister was satisfied with the role of Thai authorities along the border, saying "they conducted themselves in accordance with Government policy."

Sqn Ldr Prasong was briefed by senior Army commanders during his visit to Chong Chom Pass in Surin, Khlong Luk-Poipet border in Sa Kaeo and Saptari Pass in Chanthaburi.

He said the morale of Thai soldiers in the region was high and they wanted to see peace along the border.

In Surin, the Foreign Minister was briefed by Maj-Gen Sanan Maroengsit, commander of the Suranari Task Force in Buriram, Surin, Sisaket and Ubon Ratchthani provinces.

The commander said a total of 26 artillery shells had landed in the area and the Task Force had evidence to prove that they were fired by Cambodian government forces.

"We have pictures to prove our point but they (Phnom Penh troops) have steadfastly denied it," Maj-Gen Sanan told during the briefing.

Besides, the commander added, his units had to tackle Cambodian bandits who often crossed into Thailand to steal cars.

From there the Foreign Minister proceeded to Aranyaprathet district in Sa Kaeo province where he was briefed by Maj-Gen Niphon Pharannit, commander of the Burapha Task Force there.

Maj-Gen Niphon told the Foreign Minister that he had prepared counter measures to deal with any spillover of the fighting between Cambodian government forces and Khmer Rouge guerrillas into Thai territory.

He pointed out that the conflict with Phnom Penh soldiers arose particularly from the fact that they used a different map to identify the border demarcation line.

Thailand and Cambodia use different maps to identify the borderline, he said.

In addition, Maj-Gen Niphon added, there was the problem of Cambodians fleeing the fighting into the province, kidnapping and smuggling.

The Foreign Minister reiterated that the Government did not think that the problem of Cambodians fleeing the fighting into the province were just refugees and would be returned to their country in a few days when the situation was safe.

He said the checkpoint between Khlong Luk and Poipet would not be opened until fighting in Cambodia stopped to ensure the safety of Thais entering the country.

In Chanthaburi, the Foreign Minister visited Saptari checkpoint in Soi Dao district and met high-ranking officers of the Chanthaburi-Trat Task Force and senior provincial authorities including Governor Amon Ananthachai.

The governor urged the Foreign Minister to discuss the possibility of opening temporary checkpoints to transport logs from Cambodia.

Gem traders also sought help from the Foreign Minister to bring back their equipment confiscated by the Khmer Rouge.

Meanwhile, fighting between the Cambodian government and the Khmer Rouge will escalate as both sides are mobilizing their forces in other parts of Banteay Meanchey province opposite Ta Phraya and Aranyaprathet districts, military sources said yesterday.

Government soldiers and the guerrillas exchanged fire early yesterday in Thmar Puok, the sources said.

The exchange of fire broke out after the guerrillas launched an attack with mortar and artillery shells in an attempt to seize the Seventh Division Battalion headquarters about 20 kilometers inside Cambodia from the Thai border in Ta Phraya.

Casualties were not known.

People living near a Khmer Rouge base at Phnum Malai are building new bunkers and repairing old ones to prepare for possible artillery shelling from fighting in Cambodia.

Prasong, Cambodian Counterpart Discuss Ties

BK2504094794 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri told reporters that he received a phone call from Cambodian Foreign Minister Samdech Kromkhun Norodom Sirivut this morning to inform him that the Cambodian Government plans to organize a roundtable meeting with representatives of all Cambodian factions on 2 May. The Cambodian foreign minister said that the Cambodian Government, with its intention to clear up any skepticism regarding Thailand and create mutual better understanding between the two countries, one of the issues to be raised for discussion during the meeting will be the alleged Thai assistance to the Khmer Rouge.

Touching on the plight of some 1,000 displaced Cambodians who fled the fighting in Cambodia to take refuge in Ta Phraya District of Sakeo Province, the Cambodian foreign minister said that Cambodian officials in collaboration with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will take care of them. In this regard, Squadron Prasong Sunsiri informed his Cambodian counterpart that Thailand has not pushed any displaced people out of the country. However, if they return to Cambodia, they do so on a voluntary basis.

Army Chief on Sihanouk's Peace Efforts

BK2404123494 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Wimon Wongwanit expects King Norodom Sihanouk will be able to bring about reconciliation and peace in Cambodia, Army spokesman Col Phalangkun Klahan said yesterday.

He quoted the army chief as saying that the war in Cambodia had been going on for more than 10 years and, if it continued, it would affect Thailand and the good relationship between Thailand and Cambodia.

Col Phalangkun said the peace conference between the Cambodian government and the Khmer Rouge to be held next month at the behest of King Sihanouk was Cambodia's internal affairs.

The Thai armed forces, he said, wanted peace restored in Cambodia.

"The best way to bring about peace is to stop fighting and for all sides to reconcile," he said.

First Army Region commander Lt Gen Chettha Thanacharo voiced support for King Sihanouk's peace initiative "because the policy of the Government and the Thai armed forces is to see peace and reconciliation being restored in Cambodia."

He said he had told the Burapha Task Force on the eastern border to compile evidence of cross-border shelling and the flow of Cambodian refugees into Thailand.

"We want the Cambodian refugees to speak out openly when they want to go home because previously we were always accused of forcing the Cambodians back," Lt-Gen Chettha said.

About 100 more Cambodian refugees fled to the border of Ta Phraya district in Sa Kaeo Province on Friday night for fear of a Khmer Rouge attack on their village.

The refugees from O Bai Chuan village, mostly women and children, were settled in a temple in Ban Non Mak Mun.

One of the refugees, Mrs Chao, 68, told Thai police that they escaped because they heard that Khmer Rouge guerrillas would attack their village and would kill all men wearing army uniform.

Army To Take 'Tough' Action Against Shelling

BK2504043494 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 94 p A5

[Text] THE Army again warned Cambodian government troops fighting the Khmer Rouge near the border yesterday that Thailand will respond "in a tough manner" if stray artillery shells continue to land on Thai soil.

Army spokesman Phalangkun Klahan said the shells could have "intentionally" been aimed against Thai territory.

"The artillery shells which have fallen on our soil lately are becoming increasingly suspect," the spokesman said. " We are analyzing possibilities to determine whether they (Cambodian troops) had some motive and intended to fire directly into Thailand.

"We are preparing to respond in a tough manner" to ensure Thailand's sovereignty, said Phalangkun.

The warning came amidst heightened tension between Thailand and Cambodia over Phnom Penh's allegation that the Thai military is still supporting the outlawed Khmer Rouge. Cambodian leaders have blamed Thailand for the Khmer Rouge's success in retaking the strategic and gem-rich western town of Pailin, an accusation Bangkok described as a sore loser's attempt to find a scapegoat.

Phnom Penh accused some units of the Thai military of having business interests with the Khmer Rouge in Pailin, which were seized by the Cambodian army a month before the Khmer Rouge recaptured it about a week ago.

Supreme Command spokesman Anuson Kritsanaserani last week complained about artillery shells fired by Cambodian troops landing in Thailand.

The military has also pointed out that while Phnom Penh has been "smearing" Thailand's image, Thais living along the border have had to bear the brunt of the military spillover from the Cambodian civil war as well as the burden of never-ending refugee problems.

"Thai soldiers are taking care of Khmer refugees at the border. This shows we are not siding with anybody," Phalangkun said.

Army Commander-in-Chief Wimon Wongwanit has been at the forefront of the diplomatic row between Thailand and Cambodia. He last week threatened to cut humanitarian assistance to the war-torn country if it continued its verbal attacks on the government here.

Wimon yesterday said he wanted to see peace in Cambodia as soon as possible and an end to the refugee problem.

Settlement of Rift With Cambodia Urged

BK2304141394 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Editorial: "The Misunderstanding Must Be Cleared"]

[Text] Relations between Thailand and Cambodia are sour again after Cambodian leaders, from prime ministers to foreign minister, made a series of allegations against Thailand through the media. They accused Thailand of helping the Khmer Rouge in operations against the Phnom Penh government because the Khmer Rouge was excluded from national administration.

The latest accusation was heard when the Khmer Rouge forces retook the town of Pailin, which is in the northwest of Cambodia and less than 20 km from the Thai border. Pailin had been captured by government forces on 19 March, but remained under the Cambodian Government's control for only 30 days.

This time the accusation was made by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, who said Thailand "directly helped the Khmer Rouge," and that several hundreds crossed from the Thai side to reinforce the Khmer Rouge at Pailin.

The Thai Government, through its spokesman, immediately denied the Cambodian allegation. It said the Thai Government was gravely concerned by the accusations made to the media by Cambodian leaders. It said, despite the fact that there was an agreement to settle problems through diplomatic channels, Cambodia never abided by the agreement. This caused Thailand to doubt whether the Cambodian Government was only finding a scapegoat to explain its defeat at the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

From what happened, we think the Thai and Cambodian Governments are now resorting to emotions in dealing with one another. It is useless to adopt such a stand, and continue throwing charges against each other, since this would only make things worse.

Before the Khmer Rouge lost Pailin to the Phnom Penh government, Thailand had adjusted its policy regarding issues at the border with Cambodia—Cambodians would be denied shelter inside Thailand in order to prevent allegations that Thailand was helping the Khmer Rouge. However, Thailand was accused by the Cambodian Government of lacking humanitarian feelings when it pushed back fleeing Cambodian refugees. Now Cambodia has accused Thailand of helping the Khmer Rouge—which is very unlikely. Khmer Rouge elements can sneak into Thai territory without Thailand's knowledge because the Thai- Cambodian border is a long stretch. And it is not Thailand's fault if Khmer Rouge forces used Thai territory as a transport route without Thailand's knowledge.

We think that, although both Thailand and Cambodia are in an angry mood, they should immediately seek to hold a high-level meeting to thrash out the mutual distrust.

There is no use in Thailand helping the Khmer Rouge in their fight against the Phnom Penh government since Thailand, as a nation, would gain nothing from that.

It is necessary for Thailand and Cambodia to hold discussions to reach mutual understanding in order to prevent further any deterioration in their relations. Remaining indifferent to the issue will be no good for any of the two parties since, as geographical neighbors, they cannot live far apart from one another.

Six Burmese Caught With Weapons, Ammunition

BK2304101094 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 94 p 6

[Text] Ranong—Six Burmese men of Mon origin, believed to be gun dealers, were arrested yesterday in a raid on a house in Muang District of this southern province.

They were allegedly caught with a large number of war weapons in their possesslion.

The six men, aged 16-30, could not speak Thai.

Police found one M-60 machinegun, one M79 grenade launcher, six AK-47 rifles, 26 M-79 shells, 2,000 rounds of M-60 ammunition and 123 rounds of AK-47 ammunition.

The weapons and ammunition were in an iron-chest buried 50 centimetres under the house.

Ranong deputy police chief Police Lieutenant Colonel Somchai Uamthanom said the Burmese bought the weapons and ammunition from Cambodia.

Government Agrees To Arrest Burmese 'Terrorists'

BK2404110394 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 24 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Thailand has agreed to arrest Burmese "terrorists" travelling on false passports and Burma has agreed to open a border checkpoint to take back illegal Burmese immigrants, sources said yesterday.

The agreement was reached during a meeting of the Thai-Burmese Border Committee in Moulmein in Burma.

The sources said Prime Minister Chuan Likphai had been told of the agreement which would be submitted to the Cabinet for acknowledgement on Tuesday.

First Army Region commander Lt Gen Chettha Thanacharo and commander of the Burmese Southeastern Regional Army Maj-Gen Ket Sein worked out the agreements.

Burma said a number of "terrorists" had been using fake passports to travel abroad through Bangkok and asked Thailand to arrest them. The Burmese did not define the word "terrorists".

Thailand said it had a policy not to support Burmese terrorists and the Interior and Foreign Ministries would arrest them if they passed through Bangkok. Burma gave Thailand a report on the false passports and travel documents. Thailand told Burma the 300,000 Burmese illegal immigrants causing social and economic problems in Thailand must be repatriated.

Burma said it would open a checkpoint to take them back if it could be proven they were Burmese citizens.

Representatives of the two countries agreed on developing trade and tourism with local border committees of the two countries finding ways to achieve this.

The Interior Minister, the Customs Department and the Joint Operations Center of the Supreme Command had been given responsibility for this, the source said.

The agreements will be forwarded to the Cabinet on Tuesday and another meeting of the Thai-Burmese Border Committee will be held in Bangkok at the end of this month, the source said.

Taiwan Agrees To Employ More Thai Workers

BK2304114794 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Apr 94 p 3

[Text] The Taiwanese Government has approved requests from local companies to recruit more than 100,000 Thai workers despite frequent news reports Taiwan will stop employing foreign labor, said Labor and Social Welfare Minister Phaithun Kaeothong yesterday.

Mr Phaithun said Israel had also shown an interest in employing 5,000 more Thai workers and South Korea says it wants to hire 20,000-30,000 workers from Thailand.

The minister was asked about news reports that Taiwan was considering stopping the recruitment of foreign labor.

He said he had heard frequent reports of this kind.

Taiwan has approved requests from companies to recruit 117,000 Thai workers, equal to 68 per cent of its total foreign workforce.

Mr Phaithun said the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry yesterday issued an announcement fixing the brokerage fees which job placement companies can collect from workers in order to cope with Taiwan's requirements.

The announcement stipulates a company sending workers to Taiwan can demand no more than 25,000 baht plus a month's salary from each worker.

The company may charge the workers airfares for a single trip unless the airfares are provided by the employers.

Workers must pay for other expenses such as medical examinations, skills tests, the translation of documents and passports.

Brokerage fees collected from workers destined for other countries will differ, said Mr Phaithun. He said one measure to control the 174 job placement companies supplying workers to Taiwan was a requirement that they set up a central organization to make sure all companies comply strictly with the ministry announcement. He said the ministry had also been contacted by Israeli firms wanting about 5,000 Thai workers.

Ministry officials have been instructed to check the work sites to see if they are secure enough.

South Korea has also shown an interest in recruiting 20,000- 30,000 Thai workers for factories in the form of job training similar to in Japan. The employment is on the condition that the workers must have worked for South Korean companies in Thailand, said Mr Phaithun.

Bomb Explodes in Nakhon Si Thammarat 23 Apr

Six Killed in Explosion

BK2304081494 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] A Public Relations Department correspondent reported from Nakhon Si Thammarat Province that a bomb exploded at the railway station in Nakhon Si Thammarat at about noon. The motive of the explosion is unknown. Six persons were killed instantly and several were injured. Second Lieutenant Thanaphong Chakkaphak, Nakhon Si Thammarat deputy governor, and police officials went to the scene to investigate the incident. Those injured were rushed to the Maharat Hospital of Nakhon Si Thammarat for treatment.

Further on Bomb Attack

BK2404111094 Bangkok THE SUNDAY NATION in English 24 Apr 94 pp A1, A2

[Text] Nakhon Si Thammarat—A powerful bomb went off at busy Nakhon Si Thammarat Railway Station around noon yesterday, killing three people and injuring 27 others in an apparent terrorist attack. No one has claimed responsibility for the incident. Police said the explosion came from a cluster of baggage in the crowded waiting area near a food stall on the platform where the Nakhon Si Thammarat- Bangkok express train stood around 12.30 pm.

Sutchai Butngam, 40, who kept the food stall, was killed instantly, while Rochem Butem, a young man, and a 17-year-old woman, Amnuai Raksarat, who suffered serious injuries died later at hospital. Eight of those injured were in critical condition last night and some may not survive, according to Maharat Hospital officials. Most of the casualties were passengers or relatives seeing off family members.

Provincial Governor Suchan Phongnua expressed outrage at the attack but did not lay blame. "The explosion was an act of terrorism. It intended to kill people—poor people, women and children," he told reporters at the scene of the blast covered with pools of blood, broken tables and chairs, smashed utensils and scattered food.

Suchan quoted eyewitnesses as saying they saw a young man in his mid-20s placing a paper box amid the baggage and casually walking away a few minutes before the explosion. The governor said police bomb experts had yet to identify the explosive device, although an initial report suggested that it was an improvised bomb set off manually by a battery-powered detonator attached to a time-delay circuit.

Security was tightened at the airport, bus terminals, wharves, railway stations and government offices throughout the province, he said. Terrorist attacks like yesterday's incident are impossible to prevent, he said, because the perpetrators did not use a time bomb, which can be detected before it goes off.

Police Director General Prathin Santipraphop, who arrived here from Bangkok to personally direct the investigation into the case, said he believed the bomb attack was not linked to the separatist movement because the type of bomb used was different. Asked whether the attack was aimed at discrediting the government, Prathin said police investigators would need some time to find out. The national police chief said initial findings suggested that there were at least three people involved in planting the bomb at the railway station. Prathin said yesterday's attack was unpreventable, but acknowledged that police will have to improve their intelligence gathering.

Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Banthatthan said he was told by police that the bomb was designed to create the impression that the government is unable to keep peace and order. But he said it was premature to link it to "disempowered element".

Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan, also Democrat MP representing Nakhon Si Thammarat, said he was told by an eyewitness that a man apparently lit a fuse to set off the bomb. He said the eyewitness saw smoke rising from the paper box just before the explosion. Surin, who was in Nakhon Si Thammarat yesterday, said it was too early to say whether the blast was in any way linked to the separatist movement in Muslim-dominated provinces.

Police and army bomb experts equipped with metal detectors searched the railway station and the train for other bombs but found none.

The Nakhon Si Thammarat-Bangkok train eventually departed on schedule at 1.40 pm, but most of the would-be passengers cancelled the journey, fearing for their safety, and had their tickets refunded.

Politicians Blamed for Bomb Attack

BK2504041894 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Apr 94 pp 1, 3

[Text] A FOUNDER and leading member of the Barisan Revolusi Nasionale (BRN) separatist movement in this northern Malaysian state blames a group of politicians for instigating violence in southern Thai provinces so as to create a situation to justify the overthrow of the Chuan government.

Speaking to the BANGKOK POST through an interpreter in his hometown Abdul Garim bin Hassan concluded that the situation in the South, manifested by torching of rural schools and bomb attacks, was manipulated with political intent.

A respectable religious instructor, he urged the Chuan government not to be misled by the situation or to put the blame on separatist movements.

Abdul Garim said he recently met Dr Arong Mureng, leader of a new and aggressive faction of the Pattani United Liberation Organisation, another separatist organisation which has waged a battle for the creation of an autonomous Pattani state in southernmost Thailand.

Dr Arong was suspected by the Fourth Army Region of playing a role in the torching of 34 schools in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces last August.

The BRN founder said he and Dr Arong shared the view that most of the untoward incidents in the past eight months in the South were perpetrated by some politicians to cause trouble for the Government.

He insisted that his BRN organisation and Dr Arong's PULO faction were not involved in any of those incidents.

"I know him (Dr Arong) personally and this helps convince me that the allegations against Arong for causing turmoil are totally ridiculous.

"First, he is a staunchly religious man and anyone who has strong faith in religion will not dare do anything which will harm the lives of innocent people.

"Secondly, it would take a large number of people to cause trouble in different places simultaneously. And Arong does not have that capability," said Abdul Garim referring to the torching of 34 schools.

He said when he first heard about the incidents he knew at once that they were not perpetrated by separatist movements.

Abdul Garim is considered by the Fourth Army as a highly respectable member of the BRN.

Negotiations are under way to persuade him to return to Pattani to pursue a normal life.

The BRN founder charged that some separatists "who do not have any ideology" were hired by some politicians to create turmoil in the South 'to create a pretext for the overthrow of the Government.

He said Arong suspects that some of his men may have become tools of the politicians but without his consent.

Arong, he added, was infuriated.

Abdul Garim claimed separatist organisations were created for political objectives.

He explained that southern provinces were a perfect target for trouble-making because the public could be easily misled to believe that the separatists have a hand in them.

He said he felt sorry for Prime Minister Chuan Likphai whose administration has become a target.

"He is a man of good heart and who has always fought for justice in society. I personally admire him," said Abdul Garim.

About his 30-year struggle for an autonomous state in southern Thailand, he said he now realises that violence and armed struggle are not a solution to problems in the South.

He said he was considering the peace overture from the Fourth Army. If he is assured religious freedom, he said he may return.

"What I really want to do when I return home is teach Islam to young Muslims and tell them to have faith in our religion," he said.

He said he has heard of the progress in the Muslim-dominated provinces and was impressed by the effort of the Government which has gone to great lengths to redress the plight of Muslim people.

Abdul Garim, who led an armed struggle during the early 1960s because he felt at the time that the government was repressing Muslims, now views the situation more favourably.

He said he was confident that the situation in the South will improve now that the Government recognises and respects the religious' rights and freedom of Muslim people.

Separatist Involvement Ruled Out

BK2504043794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Apr 94 pp A1, A4

[Text] ARMY Chief Wimon Wongwanit yesterday ruled out separatist involvement in Saturday's bomb blast at Nakhon Si Thammarat's railway station, and said the military has evidence to support his claim.

"It is definitely not the work of separatists. We have evidence. We are gathering evidence. We will know the motive and the culprits in the next few days," Gen Wimon said.

The military knows there were two to three factors behind the bombing, be said, but he declined to elaborate.

Wimon said this kind of violence had not occurred in Nakhon Si Thammarat before because separatists have never operated in the province. Such incidents should occur only in provinces where there is serious conflict.

On Saturday, a bomb went off at the busy southern railway station killing three people and injuring at least 27 others. No one has claimed responsibility.

Police said the bomb detonated in a mound of baggage in the crowded waiting area near a food stall on the platform where the Nakhon Si Thammarat-Bangkok express train sat waiting to depart.

Witnesses said they saw a young man in his mid-20s place a paper box amid the baggage and casually walk away about five minutes before the explosion. A sketch of the suspect was issued within hours.

But Police Chief Prathin Santipraphop said initial findings suggested at least three people were involved in planting the bomb. Police yesterday issued sketches of two more suspects.

Wimon denounced the bombing as "cruel and inhuman". He said it would damage the country in particular its security and economy.

A senior official at the Interior Ministry said that before the explosion the ministry had ordered all southern provinces to be well-prepared for terrorist acts.

The source who asked not to be named said Saturday's explosion was not the work of separatists but a movement which wants to destroy the Government and bring down Fourth Army Commander Kitti Rattanachaya. The Fourth Army headquarters are located in Nakhon Si Thammarat.

The source claimed that two lieutenant generals were dissatisfied with Lt Gen Kitti, who transferred them from the Fourth Army, and wanted to damage his reputation.

Nakhon Si Thammarat Governor Suchan Phongnua said the province was warned beforehand that the provincial hall would be a bomb target, and security had been tightened there.

He said police had provided round the-clock security for the hall, but he had not expected a bomb would go off in the railway station.

Officials are investigating whether the incident had anything to do with any separatist groups, Suchan said.

On Saturday, Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut also said police had received advance intelligence about the bomb plot. He said police are hunting intensively for confirmation of another report that there will be similar violence in Bangkok next month.

Gen Chawalit believes the explosion was the work of a local group of troublemakers who want to destabilize the government, and not foreign terrorists.

Interior officials, including Deputy Interior Minister Chamni Sakdiset and Permanent Secretary Ari Wongariya, yesterday morning were briefed by local officials.

Chamni, who is also an MP for Nakhon Si Thammarat, said the explosion was the work of ill-intentioned people who want to destabilize the government. The incident was linked to violence in the southernmost provinces, he said.

He said the investigation has progressed since important witnesses were questioned. The arrest of those responsible for the explosion will lead to the arrest of those responsible for other sabotage in the deep South, he predicted.

"We now see the shadow of the wrongdoers, but we have to gather more information. I believe everything will be clear in a short time," Chamni said.

He said he had ordered police to beef up security at crowded places in the province to prevent a repeat of the bombing. He had also ordered the setting up of two police special task forces to hunt for suspects.

Ari said the Interior Ministry is preparing a major plan to prevent sabotage in the South. Provincial governors and police and military officers will be included.

Col Phathai Suthisi of the Fourth Army said the culprits must be experienced explosives handlers. The bomb was not a military M-26 hand grenade as initially claimed by police. It was home-made and consisted of about a quarter pound of high explosive timed to explode only two or three minutes after it was left at the station.

Vietnam

Petrovietnam Protests Crestone's Illegal Action

BK2304150094 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 23—The Vietnam oil and gas corporation (Petrovietnam) strongly protests the American oil company Crestone in a contract with China for conducting surveys for oil drilling in Vietnam's special economic zone and continental shelf, says a statement released today by Petrovietnam.

Crestone signed the so called 'Wan En 21 Contract' with China in May 1992 to explore oil and gas. The area is in fact the Tu Chinh shoal well within the special economic zone and continental shelf of Vietnam, the statement says. The signing of the said contract is a serious encroachment of the Vietnamese territorial sovereignty, causing worries for organizations and individuals doing oil and gas business in the region and the world, the statement remarks.

It recalled that a spokesperson for Vietnam's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday vehemently protested the April 18, 1994 announcement by Crestone on its current seismic surveys and preparations for test drilling in the so called 'Wan En 21'.

The statement concludes by demanding Crestone put an end without condition to all its activities on oil and gas in the Tu Chinh area of Vietnam.

Leaders Receive Ukrainian Foreign Minister

BK2204151894 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here today on separate occasions Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoly Zlenko who is on an official visit to Vietnam.

Speaking to President Le Duc Anh, Foreign Minister A. Zlenko highlighted the results of his talks with F.M. Nguyen Manh Cam on April 21, and expressed his wish for further consolidation and development of the traditional friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the interest of the two peoples and in conformity with the trend for cooperation and development in the world.

For his part, President Le Duc Anh expressed thanks to the Ukrainian president for inviting him to visit Ukraine. He also thanked the state and people of Ukraine for their great support and assistance in the fields of energy, oil and gas exploitation, agriculture, civil aviation, marine navigation and telecommunications.

Speaking to Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, Minister Zlenko said that in its foreign policy, Ukraine reserved worthy position for the reservation and development of the traditional friendship and cooperation with Vietnam. He stressed that such relations should be strongly developed in conformity with new situation in each country, and on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and assistance. He also affirmed that Ukraine would continue extending assistance and cooperation with Vietnam in the fields of trade, energy, industry and agriculture. He wished the two countries would early sign an agreement on investment promotion and protection and an agreement on avoidance of double taxation.

P.M. Vo Van Kiet expressed his pleasure at the results of the talks held between the two ministers. He said that the Vietnamese people never forget the assistance of the former Soviet Union, Ukraine included. He affirmed that the Vietnamese Government would do its utmost to promote the relation of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

P.M. Kiet asked Minister Zlenko to convey his sincere thanks to the Ukrainian president for inviting to visit Ukraine.

Earlier this morning, Foreign Minister Zlenko held a press conference on the results of his visit.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Makes Official Visit

Holds News Conference

BK2304155394 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister, Mr. Zlenko, talked to a press conference in Hanoi on Wednesday that his country could learn from Vietnam's economic experience. Here is Mr. Zlenko at the presss conference:

[Begin Zlenko recording in Russian fading into Vietnamese translation] This is the first visit to Vietnam by a Ukrainian foreign minister since the Republic separated from the former USSR. In its foreign policy, Ukraine attached great importance to relations with countries in Asia and the Pacific, in which Vietnam plays an important role. Ukraine has been confronted with numerous difficulties in its economic reform when shifting to a market economy. Production has declined, information increased, and people's life degraded. In this situation, Ukraine needs to find new trade partners, especially restoring relations with traditional clients such as Vietnam.

According to economics, Asia-Pacific has been a dynamic and promising region of the 20th century. Ukraine admires the achievements of the Vietnamese people in economic reform while maintaining political stability. It is good for Ukraine to learn from the experience of Vietnam and other countries in the region.

The Ukrainian foreign minister said: He had talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam and met with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. The two sides agreed to continue their friendship and bilateral comprehensive cooperation in which Ukraine can develop its potentials in engineering, oil, and gas exploitation, food processing, and construction.

The two sides also agreed to continue the process for signing agrements on encouragement and protection of investments, and avoidance of double taxation which will serve as a legal foundation for new bilateral relations to bear fruits.

The Ukrainian foreign minister also said Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet would visit Ukraine in June this year and believed the visit would be an important step for further development of bilateral relations.

Speaking with newsmen on the situation in Bosnia, the Ukrainian diplomat said: Ukraine wanted to solve the conflict through peaceful negotiations. Ukraine was gravely concerned about what had happened there would not only cause much losses and sorrow for local people but also threaten to drag other Balkan states into the conflict.

Ukraine hopes efforts by the world community, including Russia, would soon peacefully solve the crisis. [end recording]

Joint Communique Signed

BK2504095094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Joint communique on "Results of Official Vietnam Visit by Ukrainian Foreign Minister"—place and date not given]

[Text] 1. Accepting SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam's invitation, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Zlenko paid an official visit to Vietnam on 21-23 April.

During his stay in Vietnam, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Maksymovych Zlenko was cordially received by SRV President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. Minister Nguyen Manh Cam held talks with Minister Zlenko. Minister Zlenko handed the Ukrainian President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk's letter to SRV President Le Duc Anh and conveyed the former's invitation to President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to pay an official visit to Ukraine at an appropriate time. President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister thanked him and happily accepted the invitation.

Minister Zlenko, his wife, and the entourage visited some economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi. During their visit, meetings were held in the atmosphere of friendship and complete mutual understanding.

2. The two ministers expressed the common desire of Vietnam and Ukraine to continue consolidating and developing their traditional friendship and cooperation relations on the principles of respecting each other's independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity; noninterference in each other's internal affairs;

and equality and mutual benefits. For that purpose, the two sides deemed it necessary to sign at an early stage a document outlining the principles for bilateral relations between Vietnam and Ukraine to improve legal foundation for the development of a long-term and stable cooperative relationship between the two countries.

3. The two sides attached importance to political contacts, including contacts at the highest level, and regular exchange of views on bilateral and international issues of mutual concern at the UN and other international organizations and forums in the cooperative and constructive spirit.

4. The two sides highly value the special meaning of the consolidation and broadening of the economic and commercial relations on the principles of equality and mutual benefit to create favorable conditions for all trade activities, including the encouragement and protection of investment and the exchange of goods and services between the two countries. For this purpose, the two sides will sign an agreement on investment encouragement and protection, an agreement on avoidance of double taxation, and some other economic agreements.

5. The two sides confirmed the necessity for an early startup of the operation of the SRV-Ukraine Intergovernmental Joint Committee for Economic, Commercial, and Scientific and Technological Cooperation so that the first meeting of the committee can be held in late 1994.

6. The two sides expressed their desire to continue developing cooperation in culture, science and technology, and other fields; the relations among legislative and administrative organs and the mass organization; and the cooperation to fight crime in the two countries.

7. The two sides expressed their determination to contribute their share to international efforts to end the arms race and achieve disarmament under an efficient international supervision and for peaceful settlement of international disputes.

Vietnam welcomed Ukraine's wish to become a nuclear-free country and its concrete actions to achieve a nuclear-free status. Vietnam considered this an important contribution to world peace and security.

Ukraine applauded Vietnam's open-door policy to diversify Vietnamese multilateral relations. Ukraine considers this an important contribution to the preservation of peace and the consolidation, stabilization, and development of regional and international cooperation.

8. The two sides maintain that the official Vietnam visit by the Ukrainian foreign minister was successfully conducted, contributing an important share to strengthening and broadening the relations between the two countries. Minister Zlenko invited Minister Nguyen Manh Cam to visit Ukraine at an appropriate time. Minister Nguyen Manh Cam thanked him and accepted the invitation. The Ukrainian delegation sincerely expressed its appreciation for the friendship, hospitality, and solemn reception given to the delegation by the Vietnamese leaders and people.

Concludes Official Visit

BK2504073794 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Accepting our Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam's invitation, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Maksymovych Zlenko and his wife paid an official visit to Vietnam on 21-23 April. Accompanying Foreign Minister Zlenko were high-ranking officials of the Ukrainian foreign and economic ministries and many businessmen.

During their stay in Vietnam, Minister Zlenko, his wife, and the entourage visited Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and his living and working quarters. Minister Zlenko was cordially received by State President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. He handed the Ukrainian President Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk's letter to President Le Duc Anh and solemnly conveyed the former's invitation to President Le Duc Anh and Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to pay an official visit to Ukraine at an appropriate time. President Le Duc Anh and the prime minister thanked him and happily accepted the invitation.

Minister Zlenko held a working session with Defense Minister Doan Khue. His entourage also met with leaders of some Vietnamese ministries and sectors to exchange views on practical cooperation possibilities. The Ukrainian delegation visited some economic and cultural establishments in Hanoi.

Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his wife received and entertained Minister Zlenko, his wife, and the visiting guests. He welcomed the Vietnam visit by Minister Zlenko and considered it an important event in the development and acceleration of the traditional friendship and cooperation relation between the two countries in the new situation. He expressed his sincere and profound appreciation to the Ukrainian Government and people for their precious support to Vietnam.

Minister Zlenko expressed joy at his chance to visit Vietnam and sincerely thanked his hosts for the solemn and wholehearted reception and hospitality given to his delegation by the Vietnamese leaders and people. He highly evaluated achievements scored by the Vietnamese people in their current renovation undertaking.

Minister Zlenko held talks with Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, and they expressed their contentment at the recent active development steps in many fields between the two countries. They exchanged views on directions and measures to accelerate cooperation between the two countries in the coming period. They agreed to quickly prepare a document outlining the principles of the relations between the two countries and agreements that will be signed at the upcoming summit. They also exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual concern.

Minister Zlenko invited Minister Nguyen Manh Cam to pay an official visit to Ukraine. Minister Nguyen Manh Cam thanked him and accepted the invitation.

On 22 April, Minister Zlenko held a news conference on the result of his official visit to Vietnam at the Government Guest House. The two sides also issued a joint communique on this visit.

On 23 April, the Ukrainian foreign minister and his wife left Vietnam, successfully ending an official visit here.

Le Duc Anh Reportedly Plans To Visit Iran

BK2404140594 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a communique indicating that President Le Duc Anh will pay an official friendship visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the not-too- distant future at the invitation of His Excellency 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Vo Van Kiet Receives ADB President Sato

BK2304093294 Hanoi VNA in English 0617 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 23—Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet received here yesterday Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mitsuo Sato, who is here to sign agreements to provide loans to Vietnam for upgrading the Ho Chi Minh-Nha Trang motorway and restoring the water supply and drainage system in Ho Chi Minh City.

At the reception, the ADB president expressed his satisfaction at the strong commitment of the Vietnamese Government to develop a cooperation with the ADB and other countries in the region. He highly appreciated the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in their renovation process. President Mitsuo Sato affirmed that the ADB could continue expanding its cooperation with Vietnam and be ready to offer Vietnam assistance in capital to reconstruct the country. He said ADB would make avaiable 300 USD milion in 1994 and 350 USD million in 1995. Also yesterday Mr Sato attended the third sub-regional economic cooperation conference currently held in Hanoi. For his part, Prime Minister Kiet thanked ADB and other international financial and monetary organizations for their assistance in finance,and experience in management and personnel training. He stressed that ABD's assistance was one of the factors that had contributed to the stability of the Vietnamese economy. He said he hoped that the relations between Vietnam and ADB would be further developed in many fields, and Vietnam would do its best to bring into play ADB and other financial and monetary organizations' assistance. President Mitsuo Sato also met with the governor of the Vietnam State Bank Cao Sy Kiem. Host and guest exchanged views on the development of the bilateral cooperation in domains of banking and finance between Vietnam and ADB.

Party Delegation Received by Chinese Counterpart

BK2404135094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 23 Apr 94

[Text] A China party official said China attaches great importance to its traditional friendship with Vietnam. At a reception given to a Vietnamese party delegation led by Secretary of the party Central Committee Mr. Hong Ha in Beijing on Friday, Mr. Qiao Shi said China also attaches importance to the improvement of neighborliness and cooperation between the two countries. He stressed that, in the present world situation, what is important to the two countries is to maintain contact and regular exchanges of views.

Assembly Chairman Received by Indian House Speaker

BK2204150794 Hanoi VNA in English 1446 GMT 22 Apr 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—Speaker of the Indian House of Commons [as received] Shivraj Patil [speaker of the Indian Lok Sabha] received in New Delhi yesterday afternoon Vietnam's National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh and his party now on an official visit to India.

Speaking during the reception, Chairman Nong Duc Manh said he treasured the close friendship and solidarity between Vietnam and India which had been fostered by President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister J. Nehru. He stressed that the renovation process and expansion of the cooperation ties with other countries over the world was a good opportunity for Vietnam to learn experience from foreign countries including India. He invited Mr Shivraj Patil to visit Vietnam, and expressed his wish for further cooperation between the two legislatures.

Mr. Patil accepted Mr. Manh's invitation with pleasure. The former spoke highly of the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people, and he wished that the all-sided cooperation between Vietnam and India would continue to develop to a higher level.

Later the Vietnamese delegation met with 30 Indian parliamentarians of various parties from different states.

The same day speaker Shivraj Patil gave a banquet in honour of the Vietnamese National Assembly Chairman and his party.

Vo Van Kiet Urges Promoting Cooperation With Burma

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[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22— 'The situation in the region at present is favourable for developing the cooperation and friendship between Myanmar [Burma] and Vietnam, particularly in the economic and trade fields, and it is time to promote these relations commensurable to the political ones', said Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

The prime minister was speaking to Myanmar Deputy Foreign Minister U Nyunt Swe who paid him a courtesy visit this afternoon. P.M. Kiet also stressed that the Vietnamese Government encouraged and created favourable conditions for its businesses to have contacts with their Myanmar partners to study possibilities for their cooperation.

For his part Mr. U Nyunt Swe said that Myanmar always looked neighbouring Vietnam as a country having an important role in the region, and Myanmar always treasure the fraternal feelings of the Vietnamese people. [sentence as received] He thanked the Vietnamese Government and its concerned bodies for their active response to Myanmar's requests for cooperation and assistance in some agricultural areas.

Mr. U Nyunt Swe arrived here yesterday for an official visit as guest of Vietnam's Foreign Ministry.

This morning Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan had talks with Mr Nyunt Swe. The two sides discussed steps to enhance the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Myanmar, particularly in economic, trade, tourism and other fields.

The same day F.M. Nguyen Manh Cam received Mr Nyunt Swe and his entourage.

Myanmar Ambassador in Vietnam U. Aye was present at the activities of the Myanmar delegation, which left Hanoi this afternoon for Ho Chi Minh City.

Vo Van Kiet Speaks at Regional Economic Conference

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[Text] Hanoi VNA April 22—The third conference on sub- regional economic cooperation was opened here this morning in the Presence of P.M. Vo Van Kiet and Asian Development Bank [ADB] President Mitsuo Sato.

The conference are attended by high-level delegations of the Governments of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar [Burma] and the People's Republic of China and Vietnam. ADB senior officials and ambassadors and charge d'affaires of the participant countries are also on hand.

After the opening speech delivered by Deputy Prime Minister Tran Duc Luong, head of the Vietnamese delegation to the conference, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet delivered a speech in which he said the high-level conference on sub-regional economic cooperation initiated by ADB was highly valued and actively responded by the countries concerned including Vietnam.

He said the Vietnamese Government pledged to extended support and cooperation in sub-regional projects, and called for financial assistance from the international community to carry out these projects. The Vietnamese leader expressed his hope that this conference would mark an important step in the process of cooperation in the sub-region and wished it a success.

Many papers on projects of cooperation in various fields including energy, transport, communications, tourism and trade were also delivered at the conference.

Firm Invests Power Line, Stations

BK2004102094 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 19 Apr 94

[Text] Power Supply Corporation No. 2 has invested 19 billion dong to build three power transformer stations and a 76-km-long power transmission network to bring electricity from a 35-KV and a 20-KV powerline to three remote districts, U Minh, Thoi Binh, and Cai Nuoc in Minh Hai Province. The U Minh District people's committee, the Minh Hai Province power supply service, and the Can Tho and Minh Hai power plant building corporations recently implemented this building project.

*Articles Emphasizes Importance of Strong Border Defense

General Promotes Ideas of Secure Border Defense

[Article by Lieutenant General Trinh Tran, commander, Border Defense Forces: "On the Border Defense Troops' Traditions Day—Let's Develop the All-People Strength, Maintain Sovereignty and Security on the Fatherland's Borders"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] With the background of profound international changes, on the one hand, there are opportunities for us to win peace, to expand our international relations, and to develop our country; on the other hand, we must do our best to remain vigilant because the adversary forces are frantically pushing their "peaceful event" plots and tricks combined with armed rioting so as to overthrow the socialist system in our country. The issues involving land borders, national sovereignty, and the struggle against violations and seizure of our border and sea-island sovereignty, resources, and national interests are becoming urgent and complicated ones. The activities of various kinds of political, criminal, and economic violators who take advantage of the "open door" situation are increasing and becoming more and more daring and well-organized, with the use of arms and the connections between the country and the outside creating many hot issues regarding the security and order on our borders and the sea. This is the reason why the work of organizing our border defense is playing an extremely important role and there must be a thorough understanding of the task and view mentioned in Resolution 3 of the CPV Central Committee, namely, to strengthen the management and maintaining of our sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to maintain security and order on the borders, coast, and islands of our fatherland.

The need for managing and maintaining sovereignty and security on our national borders in the new situation must be total, with maintaining our sovereignty, territorial integrity, resources, environment, and national interests being closely combined with maintaining political security and social order and security, and defeating the criminals' peaceful-event plots, violations of territorial sovereignty, and sabotaging of security and order; at the same time, we must thoroughly understand the foreign policy of our state in the renovation period, build the peace-and-friendship borders with our neighbors, and open the doors and expand international relations in the fields of foreign investment and economic cooperation. In order to fulfill the above-mentioned task and need and to act on our own initiative under any circumstances, on the basis of our recent experience we must build a strong all-people border defense, maintain national solidarity, and closely combine socioeconomic development with strengthening and consolidating our national defense and security. Now and in the coming years, we must continue to properly implement the government's Decision 16/HDBT aimed at raising the quality and effectiveness of the Border Defense Day; make people know very well the new situation and task; heighten their revolutionary vigilance; strengthen and consolidate the political bases and the movement to maintain the fatherland's security; build the people's security front along with the all-people national defense front; and develop solidarity with and attachment to the people, joint combat and mutual assistance relations between the border defense forces and the people and forces stationed on the borders, and hence mobilization of the country's total strength to serve the task of building and defending our borders, particularly in the situation of unexpected events suddenly taking place.

We need to build a more profound and stronger all-people border defense on the basis of developing the all-people strength, the strength of the country and the political system as a whole, from inland areas to the borders, both in the rear and at the front, so as to resolve on a first-priority basis the urgent socioeconomic issues and to build strong border and coastal areas and islands, particularly the highlands and remote areas, which will serve as the base for building the front line based on the people's wishes, the front line based on the people's security, and for firmly defending our national borders. We need to strengthen leadership provided by the ministries and central sectors and by local echelons and sectors, and to mobilize the people all over the country and particularly the ethnic groups in border and sea-island areas for properly implementing Directive 525/CT-TTg on a number of programs and measures aimed at developing socioeconomic conditions in the highlands and among ethnic groups, and Directive 399 CT/TTg on the task of developing the sea-based economy. The border defense troops, along with central and local committees and sectors, are to continue to effectively carry out programs calling for joint action with the Ministries of Education and Training, Culture and Information, and Public Health; the Vietnam Women's Union; and the Youth Union Central Committee and to obtain better and better results from them. At the same time, they must join with the localities in basic investigations of the socioeconomic conditions in border villages so as to introduce there programs of action having important and key provisions.

As for the border defense troops, after 35 years of building, doing regular work, fighting, and growing up, they need to develop their proud traditions; to heighten their political capabilities and fighting power in all fields; to do their best to overcome any remaining shortcomings and weaknesses; to continue consolidating solidarity, democracy, and internal discipline; and to eliminate such negative aspects as authoritarianism and harassment of the people so as to strengthen the blood-and-flesh attachment to the people, to correctly implement the national and religious policies, and to turn themselves into strong, well-trained, regular troops capable of properly fulfilling their task while continuing to combine border defense work with socioeconomic development as a means to improve the standard of living and with strengthening of the masses' work as an important political task of the forces.

The task of maintaining sovereignty and security in border areas requires that we set renovation at the same level as that of the new need and task. By fully learning from the "consider the people as the roots" lesson, knowing how to develop the strength of the masses while creating favorable conditions for stabilizing their living conditions, effectively promoting socioeconomic development, and achieving national wealth and strength, as well as a fair and civilized society, we will certainly succeed in building a front line based on the people's wishes that becomes stronger and stronger everyday, maintaining national sovereignty and territorial integrity, contributing to maintaining the country's political stability, and bringing victory to the renovation undertaken by our party and people as a whole.

Expert Comments on Need for Border Defense Work

942E0041B Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 3 Mar 94 pp 1, 2

[Article by Vo Hong Anh: "Border Defense Troops Show Strong Fighting Spirit, Close Army-People Solidarity"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our country is getting better everyday as it travels on the total renovation road under the leadership of the party. What is important in the new period is to maintain political stability in order to gradually achieve economic, cultural, and social development, as well as strengthening of national defense and security. Taking advantage of the renovation policy, open borders, and international circulation, the adversary forces from without have been strengthening their infiltration across the borders, maintaining contact with the reactionaries within the country to develop their strength, and building covert installations along the borders and the coast. Through touristic activities, visits with relatives, and border crossings, they have been bringing in people, means, and reactionary materials to support the forces within the country. They have been taking advantage particularly of our ethnic people's current economic difficulties in order to incite them, to distort our party's policies and line, and thus to destroy their confidence in the party, and at the same time using economic means to gain the support of the masses, to attract them to their side, and to gradually create an opposition force fighting against the revolution. In the last several years, they had been taking advantage of the nationalistic and freedom-of-religion policies adopted by our party to engage in illegal propaganda, with the hope that they could raise complicated political issues, gain influence toward the masses, and cause instability from within, particularly in border areas, where the standard of living and intellectual capacity of the people remained low. Although the development of a market economy and business deals with foreign countries was active, there appeared a lot of complications such as across-the-border smuggling, criminal acts, and social ills, which sometimes destabilized law and order in border areas and made the border defense troops' responsibility for protecting and managing the borders much heavier.

In the last 5 years, the forces in charge of the southern sea zone caught 596 foreign boats which had violated our fishing grounds. With active support from the people, the border defense troops handled 186 cases of illegal border entries and 8,567 major cases of smuggling involving 533 cars and motorcycles, 2,284 kilograms of opium, and so on.

To help the people, particularly the ethnic people, has always been considered by the border defense troops their central work. Their activities, such as "medical doctors of blue military rank" and "teachers of blue military rank," reflecting their spirit of sacrifice in saving the people in natural disasters like storms and floods, and in sharing food and clothing with the people, have further strengthened the close relationships between the army and the people.

On 22 February 1989, the Council of Ministers issued Decision 16/HDBT to set the 3rd day of March every year as the Border Defense Day. Since the promulgation of this decision, party committee echelons, local administrations, mass organizations, and social organizations have been showing their wholehearted interest in turning the activities on "Border Defense Day" into a widespread movement being carried out in many rich and lively forms. In border provinces and cities throughout the country, many movements, such as "assault youth being the masters of borders," women "for our borders," "peaceful hamlets," "model elders and village chiefs," and so on, have succeeded in mobilization.